

WEST OF BOTH WORLDS

Class divide runs through the middle of Kensington and Chelsea writes Alistair Farrow in the aftermath of the Grenfell Tower fire

>>Pages 10&11

DEFEND MIGRANTS NOT THE EU

Dave Sewell argues against the single market and for freedom of movement >>Pages 14&15



Socialist Worker

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- MASS KILLINGS AT GRENFELL
- BILLIONS FOR THE DUP
- MILLIONS FOR THE QUEEN

THE VILE TORY MURDERERS MUST PAY



THE TORIES have stitched up a deal with the sectarian murderers and sexist bigots of the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP).

The DUP won't officially be in the government, but its ten MPs will prop up the Tories in key votes.

For all of Theresa May's talk about there being no "magic money tree" for the NHS and

NOT ONE MORE DAY PROTEST SATURDAY 1 JULY

Assemble 12 noon Portland Place London. Called by the People's Assembly

schools, the Tories found £1 billion to buy themselves into government. This might give May some time—but it's likely to bear poison fruit.

The deal is another sign of

the Tories' growing weakness after the election.

At the slightest pressure, they make a lot of noise then throw their hands in the air. The
>>continued on page 5

● PROTESTS CAN GET THEM OUT

POLICE

Angry protests demand justice for Edson Da Costa

BITTER ANGER against the police burst onto the streets of east London last Sunday.

Hundreds of people protested demanding justice for Edir Frederico Da Costa, known as Edson, who died after being arrested.

"The police killed Edson," one protester said. "We will fight until we get the truth."

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LABOUR



Right wing seeks to undermine Corbyn's gains

NEW POLLS have shown left wing Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn pushing his party to success.

But some MPs and activists are already looking to drag it back to the right.

They still argue that only this can win elections—ignoring the votes won with a left wing campaign.

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EDUCATION

Strikes in schools can stop the funding cuts

TEACHERS AT a number of London schools struck this week against cuts and the threats to education.

The growing number of walkouts shows workers' fury at the attacks—and their willingness to resist the Tories' austerity policies.

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THE THINGS THEY SAY

'If Theresa May had been secretly feeding the poor at a soup kitchen every night, it would turn out that they all had food poisoning. That's how bad it is.'

Unnamed Tory MP

'For Jeremy Corbyn to seek to turn this into a political rally is an utter disgrace'

Marianna, Viscountess Monckton of Brenchley Harrietsham, writes to the Daily Telegraph to complain about Glastonbury

'The festival was dominated by the greatest cashmere communist of all: Jeremy Corbyn'

Mail columnist Sarah Vine whinges about Corbyn's popularity at Glastonbury

'We understand the anger'

Tory housing cabinet member for Kensington and Chelsea council Rock Feilding-Mellen before going into hiding last weekend to avoid the anger...

'I wanted out'

Prince Harry bemoans the stresses and strains of being a royal scrounger



Loyalist terrorist's 200 guilty pleas keep collusion hidden

ULSTER Volunteer Force (UVF) terror boss-turned-supergrass Gary Haggarty pleaded guilty to 200 terror related offences last week.

They include five murders, five attempted murders and 23 counts of conspiracy to murder.

He will probably walk free by the end of the summer.

Haggarty rose to a senior position within the UVF in North Belfast while being paid by Special Branch.

As was the other leading loyalist terrorist of the period, Mark Haddock.

The case shows collusion between the RUC and loyalists was endemic—and it bled over into the supposedly reformed police force, the PSNI.

Solicitor Niall Murphy said "throughout his entire career"



with the UVF, Haggarty "would fully debrief with his handlers" on his activities.

Mike Ritchie for Relatives for Justice, said the fact Haggarty has pleaded guilty means "a full examination of the facts by way of a public trial has been avoided".

On top of the 200 guilty pleas, Haggarty acknowledged

responsibility for 304 other offences. Haggarty has made allegations against 14 fellow loyalists for crimes including four murders.

He has also provided evidence about his Special Branch handlers who encouraged him to commit crimes. Ciaran Fox was 18 when his dad Eamonn was gunned

down with workmate Gary Convie on a building site in 1994. He said, "It's just hard sitting in a courtroom watching a guy admitting to murdering your father."

Ciaran said, "The police knew what was going to happen and took no action to stop it.

"Police knew my father and Gary Convie were both going to be murdered and they sat back and let it happen and that's hard to swallow.

"This goes right to the top, there are too many people going to get their hands burnt.

"He's done wrong, his hands are deep in blood along with people he's going to expose and because of who he's going to expose I think it's not going to finish.

"That's the hard part, just knowing he is going to walk a free man."

Benefits cap misery unlawful

A High Court judge delivered a damning verdict on the Tories' callous welfare cuts as he upheld a challenge to the benefit cap last week.

Justice Collins found in favour of four single parent families.

He ruled "that the application of the benefit cap to lone parents with children under two is unlawful because of its discriminatory impact upon children."

The judge said, "Real misery is being caused to no good purpose."

The Child Poverty Action Group said it marked the beginning of the end for a "nasty policy".



£42 MN

how much the queen spent last year

£82 MN

she gets next year from the Crown Estate. The Prince of Wales, the Duchy of Cornwall, is up to £20.7 million

Nice work if you can get it

AN AMBULANCE trust has paid out more than £400,000 to bosses for overtime.

The payments have been made to East of England ambulance managers, who already earn between £60,000 and £80,000 a year.

Frontline staff have now been told to reduce their own extra hours bill to avoid going over budget.

Senior managers were handed top of the range 4x4s last year.

Six managers had been re-hired just months after receiving redundancy packages worth £1 million.

Now figures show several bosses have been awarded overtime payments totalling £416,208 in the past two years.

Soho cop corruption scandal drags on a bit

LONDON SECURITY firm TSS continues to be mired in claims of bribery and fraud.

Six nightclub managers, four security bosses and three police officers from the Westminster licensing unit were arrested in 2015.

Former licensing cop Frank Partridge is suspected of taking bribes and undeclared gifts in return for putting pressure on clubs to employ bouncers from TSS or another company, Profile Protection.

Bouncer Terry Neil and his ex-wife Soraya Henderson

set up TSS in 2001. It went into administration late last year.

Neil accuses Henderson of misappropriating £1 million of TSS funds.

She claims Neil fabricated the allegation after she uncovered his cash withdrawals for allegedly corrupt payments to the cops. Neil claims TSS lost contracts because the licensing cops were taking cash off another company.

The Met sacked Partridge for unrelated misconduct.

All deny any wrongdoing.

WHEN FORMER Barclays boss John Varley and three other former directors face criminal charges they will be the first British bankers to face criminal charges over the financial crisis.

They have been charged with fraud and unlawful financial assistance over the bank's dealings with Qatari investors.

Barclays turned to the Qataris for cash in 2008.

They raised £11.8 billion to avoid a government bailout.

They were

desperate to avoid being nationalised.

They wrongly feared it would come with conditions including forced sales of assets, government supervision of management and loss of bonuses.

Charges focus on so called "advisory services agreements".

The bank gave the Qataris payments totalling £322 million. They then bunged a £2 billion loan their way.

The bank could be fined.

The trial could run for years.

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Angry protesters demand justice for Edson Da Costa

BITTER ANGER against the police has burst onto the streets of east London after the death of a young black man.

Hundreds of people protested last Sunday demanding justice for Edir Frederico Da Costa, known as Edson, who died after being arrested on 15 June.

Edson was 25 years old and moved to Britain in 1996. He had a young son and his girlfriend is pregnant with his second child.

"The police killed Edson," protester Marilyn told Socialist Worker. "They lied about what happened and we will fight until we get the truth."

People—many who knew Edson or his family—gathered at Forest Gate police station, marched into Stratford shopping centre and then back to the police station.

They chanted "Justice for Edson" and "We want justice". They wanted to make sure there is no cover-up.

Protesters held a minute's silence and then motorcycles revved their engines as people demanded answers from the police.

Fires

People were still outside the police station late into the night and fires were lit in the street. Police arrested five protesters towards midnight.

Fabio, who was on the protest, told Socialist Worker, "They beat Edson. We have evidence that shows the police account is a lie."

"One of our brothers has been killed—and we want to know those responsible."

He added, "There have been too many cases like this, too many young black men killed by police."

"This will not be another case where the police lies go unchallenged."

The police stopped Edson in a car on 15 June.

His family said that his neck was broken in two places, and that he had a fractured skull, a fallen voice box



PROTESTERS ARE furious at the police

PICTURE: ROB FERGUSON



Fabio—"Too many young black men killed by police"

PICTURE: SOCIALIST WORKER

and a ruptured bladder. The toothless Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) complained that this was "unhelpful speculation".

But it admitted officers had used force and CS spray during the arrest. The IPCC later denied the injuries alleged by the family. Police simply claim Edson became "unwell" during his arrest.

Knee

Ginario Da Costa, Edson's father, told a Portuguese news agency that friends said Edson "fell to the ground and a police officer put a knee on his throat".

A crowd gathered outside Forest Gate police station on Tuesday of this week. The borough commander Ian Larnder had promised to meet

campaigners. But cops were refusing as Socialist Worker went to press.

One protester said, "They said they'd give us a meeting in front of crowds of people. It's just more police lies."

A GoFundMe page was set up to support Edson's family with funeral and legal expenses.

It asks people to help "get justice for the cruel and brutal beating of a father, a son, a brother, cousin, uncle and dear friend."

"This is a call for justice, not just for Edson but for all young men that are forgotten and unprotected in this reckless system."

Support the campaign—on Twitter follow **#JusticeForEdson** and **#Justice4Edson**. To make a donation gofundme.com/justiceforEdson

INTERNATIONAL

Trump's Muslim ban is back on

DONALD TRUMP'S racist Muslim Ban was given the green light by a unanimous vote of the US Supreme Court judges on Monday.

An appeal court had voted to block parts of the ban earlier this month. Now parts of it will be implemented and another hearing will take place in October.

The new ban includes the same travel restrictions on people from six Muslim-majority countries included in the original.

But people with a "credible claim" of a relationship with

Donald Trump

a US citizen are exempt.

The ban comes at the same time as Trump's healthcare "reform" was presented to the senate.

It will remove health insurance from 22 million people.

For all their talk of resisting Trump, the Democrats did nothing to stop the Supreme Court, including influencing the four "liberal" Supreme Court justices.

There will need to be protests like those earlier in the year which pressured the Democrats to oppose the ban.

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IN TURMOIL**



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Grenfell anger needs to focus on the very top

If the inferno victims are to see any kind of justice the buck can't stop at local council, argues Alistair Farrow

THE FURIOUS response from working class people following the Grenfell Tower inferno has pushed the Tories to review 4,000 social housing units across Britain. The work is being carried out by the Building Research Establishment.

Some 95 buildings across 32 local authorities had been inspected as Socialist Worker went to press. Cladding samples from all of them had failed fire safety tests.

Some councils are refusing to submit material for testing. This raises serious questions about the safety of housing.

Independent fire safety audits have fallen by a quarter since the Tories took office in 2010. Fire service budgets have been slashed by £125 million since 2010 according to the Fire Brigades Union.

Cuts Foreign secretary Boris Johnson presided over vicious cuts to the London Fire Brigade when he was London mayor.

Theresa May's new senior adviser Gavin Barwell was voted out as a MP. He suppressed a report into tower block fire safety when he was housing minister.

Just one month before the Grenfell fire the Association of

BACK STORY

Grenfell stands as a monument of the contempt the rich hold for the poorest in our society

- The tower's residents repeatedly warned about its safety
- Tory ministers failed to act on safety recommendations from fires in other tower blocks
- Theresa May is hoping the political anger can be deflected onto the local council
- But the criminal negligence goes right to the very top—and they should be held to account

WE NEED to keep up the pressure to demand justice

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN



British Insurers warned that "external cladding made from combustible material can often cause significant fire to spread upward and between buildings".

The Tories are directly responsible for Grenfell.

As shadow chancellor John McDonnell put it, "Those families, those individuals—79 so far and there will be more—were murdered by political decisions that were taken over recent decades."

That means a central demand of the campaign needs to be for the ministers responsible to be held to account.

Chief executive of Kensington and

Chelsea council Nicholas Holgate was forced to resign last week under pressure from Sajid Javid, minister for the Department of Communities and Local Government.

Anger needs to be focused toward the very top of the state.

Scandal

The Tories want to keep the scandal as far from Downing Street as possible.

That pressure needs to be kept up if the victims of the Grenfell massacre are to see any kind of justice.

Last Thursday Theresa May told MPs, "One of the first acts of the new chief executive of Kensington and Chelsea council will be to look

at the tenant management organisation and any action that needs to be taken."

The Tories are feeling the pressure after a disastrous fortnight for them that saw the Tory prime minister chased out of Ladbrooke Grove to jeers of, "Coward!" from local residents.

To use the fire-retardant cladding would have cost just

On other pages...

How a class divide runs down the middle of Kensington >>Pages 10&11

Kensington councillors don't care about us'

by JOE DELANEY, Grenfell survivor

KENSINGTON AND Chelsea council are running absolutely nothing—apart from running scared.

My main concern is ensuring that this stays in the public light and it's not forgotten about, because that's what the government would like.

I'd like to see more openness from the council and the tenant management organisation.

What sort of tenancies are we going to be given?

A lot of the people had secure



tenancies. We didn't have these new rolling ones which are renewed every five years.

Are we all going to be put on those types of tenancies?

I've had no support from the council, nothing at all.

If the council had used just 1 percent of the capacity they use for hemming us in like pigs during the Notting Hill Carnival then none of this would have happened.

It's not even a wall of silence, it's a wall of indifference.

And it's because they don't care about us.

International Socialism★155

Issue 155 is out now, featuring

- Alex Callinicos on the Corbyn surge
- Vanina Giudicelli on elections in France
- Héctor Sierra on Podemos
- Julie Sherry on fast food rights

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IN BRIEF

London council evacuates 800 homes over safety fears

COUNCILS ARE falling over themselves to prevent another Grenfell happening.

But it shouldn't have taken the deaths of at least 79 people to get proper safety checks.

Camden council evacuated 800 flats from the Chalcots estate in the north London borough last Friday night after the discovery of combustible cladding.

London Fire Brigade also discovered doors and pipe installations that posed a fire risk.

Sprinkler

Wandsworth council in south London said it will be retro-fitting sprinkler systems to some 100 social housing blocks in the area—over 6,000 flats.

In Islington, north London, eight tower blocks were being investigated. Lead councillor for housing Diarmaid Ward spoke to Socialist Worker about what the council is doing.

"At the moment

there's one tower which tests have shown there is material on the sides which is potentially combustible," he said.

"There will be a full investigation into how that decision was made."

patrols around the building. On Friday morning there was a full fire risk assessment. The cladding will be coming off on Monday morning.

"The potentially combustible material on Braithwaite Tower was installed in 1997.

"There will be a

full investigation into how that decision was made."

Not only has May lost all authority, the government has lost all legitimacy.

We want another general

election and a Jeremy Corbyn-led Labour government—as part of

a fight for a much bigger socialist transformation of society.

Rydron had installed flammable cladding on tower blocks in the north London borough.

One council worker told Socialist Worker,

"There are questions about how the contract to run the estate was implemented. Rydron had the contract to refurbish and manage the maintenance of the estate. Who signed off on those decisions?"

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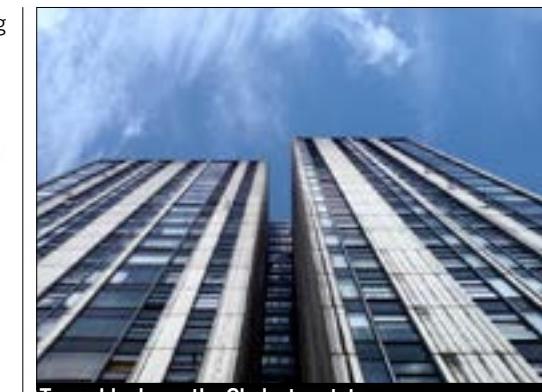
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>>Continued from Page 1

queen's speech last week was nasty but it gutted the Tories' manifesto.

This deal with the DUP leaves it more threadbare still. An unpopular plan to scrap the "triple lock" that protects pension rises has gone. So has the scheme to means test the winter fuel allowance.

The Tories' claim to be neutral in Northern Ireland has always been a lie.

Their record is one of suppressing democracy, stoking sectarianism, torture and murder in the cause of British imperialism.

This lie is even less credible now that they have brought the Loyalist DUP into their government.

Deputy prime minister Damian Green claimed the Tories were the only party with "the ability and legitimacy to lead the government our country needs".

Not only has May lost all authority, the government has lost all legitimacy.

We want another general election and a Jeremy Corbyn-led Labour government—as part of a fight for a much bigger socialist transformation of society.

Socialist Worker WHAT WE THINK

TORY MURDERERS MUST BE MADE TO PAY

But it is not inevitable that the Tories will fall from office. The Tories are split and under mounting pressure from the Grenfell murder to Brexit, but they're worried about ousting May without a strong successor.

Janan Ganesh of the Financial Times newspaper said that May "is one scandal or misjudgement from oblivion. But the Tories' intent turns out to be sincere: they really do want to sustain this unsustainable premiership for a matter of years not months".

Working class people can scupper the Tories' plans.

The Tories didn't obtain 70 flats for the Grenfell survivors in a luxury block in Kensington and Chelsea because they genuinely care.

It is not inevitable that the Tories will fall from office

It was because working class rage burst onto the streets. Hundreds stormed Kensington and Chelsea town hall and over 4,000 people marched in two demonstrations.

When May was forced to meet Grenfell survivors, local residents chased her away.

Now is the time to press home our advantage.

One analysis found that more than 750,000 people switched their vote due to May's plan to snatch £3 billion from schools.

That's because parents and teachers didn't drop the campaign during the election period.

Driving the Tories out means mobilising on the streets, such as on this Saturday's People's Assembly demonstration, and the schools funding demonstration in London on 16 July.

Corbyn's surge has lifted working class people's horizons. Many have gone from thinking a better society is a nice pipe dream to seeing it as an achievable goal.

Trade unionists and campaigners need to use this to stoke resistance and strikes against the bosses. We need to ramp up the fightback to drive the Tories from office.

ROYAL VALUE FOR MONEY?

IN THE wake of the Grenfell Tower fire, survivors had to fight to get help from the authorities. But there's always money for the rich.

Accounts released this week show that the queen grabbed some £42.8 million via the Sovereign Grant in 2016/17.

That's expected to soar to £82.2 million in 2018/19.

The queen's treasurer, Sir Alan Reid, said this is "excellent value for money".

A ceiling at Buckingham Palace was done up for £1.3 million

including "ornate gilding work".

Another £1 million went on "ceiling inspections" to make sure they are safe. Ordinary people have had to fight for safety inspections on tower blocks in the wake of the Grenfell fire.

And firms chose flammable cladding for Grenfell because it was £2 per square metre cheaper.

This system lets ordinary people die and puts others at risk to save a few quid, yet throws millions at royal parasites.

We need to get rid of it.

Help keep up the insurgent campaign

Socialist Worker was proud to be part of the fantastic campaign that shattered the Tories and saw Jeremy Corbyn's Labour confound the "experts" and the party's right wing. Our newspaper, website, placards, leaflets and badges were everywhere.

Help us keep up the campaigning, the analysis and the news. We need your donation. Donate online at bit.ly/2oqxpZL. Send a cheque payable to SW Appeal to PO Box 71327, London SE11 9BW.



COMMENT

SHEILA COLEMAN

We will support the Grenfell fire victims

THE GRENFELL Tower fire has had a huge impact on some of the people around the Hillsborough Justice Campaign (HJC).

The HJC has pledged support to the families and survivors of Grenfell Tower and will offer any assistance we can.

A group of us met with some survivors and others involved in organising in the aftermath of the fire.

The important thing for us was in the first instance to pay our respects to the dead. But also to let people know that we are around if we can help.

The most important advice we would say is to trust your own gut instinct and aim to keep as much control as is reasonably possible.

People may be able to learn from our experiences as campaigners. And hopefully they won't have to go through what Hillsborough families and survivors went through for so many years.

Most of our work in the Hillsborough campaign was done in what I consider the dark years. We had absolutely no legal support for many years.

No one wanted to know us. And the important thing for us was getting the message out and not giving up.

Our main message was that people should stay in control as much as possible.

Retain control of this. And don't be cajoled into making major decisions at this time.

We know that the establishment reorganises to protect its own. We can't let that happen. The two immediate issues of urgency are immediate rehousing in decent accommodation and trauma counselling.

I understand the need for legal representatives. But lawyers are still going to be around in a month's time. If there is an urgency for anything that supersedes establishing legal support, it's establishing trauma counselling for people.

The Grenfell Tower disaster has immense implications for government and the running of the country.

Once again, the poorest in society suffer the most. There has to be recompense and resolution. The public needs to respond to any calls for support from Grenfell survivors, families and campaigners.

They must also keep pressure on their local authorities to ensure an adherence to building and health and safety regulations. We can't bring back the dead of Grenfell, but we can ensure that this won't happen anywhere else in Britain.

Moving

On a personal level it was immensely moving to be there. The enormity of it was hard to grasp. Looking at pictures on railings of missing people, those pictures went on and on.

We understand the reality of it—it's hard to identify everybody. You feel for the firefighters. But you also feel for survivors who are still looking for family members, friends and neighbours.

We have to keep the pressure on to make sure there is no cover up.

You cannot say that what happened at Grenfell wasn't political. The economics of British society led to it.

From everything we know it looks like that tower block was surrounded by materials that led to the fire escalating. It was about money and cutting corners. To say that's not political is rubbish.

Those people have to continue making noise and we have a responsibility to make noise with them.

We owe it to Grenfell survivors and campaigners to ensure this stays high profile and that people are given a voice.

And to make sure that it's not depoliticised by co-opting people into the mainstream.

People are distressed. And it is emotional. But what we learned over the years was that those emotions are exploited to effectively depoliticise the issue.

Something has to come out of this that makes things better because you cannot let those people die in vain.

● **THE CROWN** Prosecution Service was set to announce on Wednesday of this week whether any individuals or organisations will be charged over the deaths in the Hillsborough disaster.

New inquests last year found that the 96 people who died due to the 1989 disaster were unlawfully killed.

Anti-fascists keep the Nazis down in three major cities

ANTI-FASCISTS TOOK to the streets to oppose the Nazis in Birmingham and London on Saturday and in Edinburgh on Sunday.

The counter protests were organised by Unite Against Fascism (UAF) and others.

More than 100 people protested in central London against the racist English Defence League (EDL) who only managed to muster some 62 fascists.

They were trying to capitalise on the shock and horror after the attacks in Manchester and London Bridge.

And they were following up the Islamophobic terror attack at Finsbury park Mosque in north London (see page 8).

The police facilitated the EDL's march and attacked anti-fascist protesters, arresting two people.

But chants of "Nazi scum—off our streets" rang out as it marched from Charing Cross to nearby Embankment.

Anti-fascists later joined another protest at Downing Street against the sectarian bigots of the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP).

Stopped

In Birmingham anti-fascists stopped some 250 Nazi Britain First supporters from marching through the city centre.

Blocked by the counter-demonstration, Britain First had to reach their rally point by the back streets.

The fascists had invited Jacek Miedlar, an antisemitic priest from Poland to speak. His speeches target "Islamic aggression" and immigration.

Miedlar was accused last year of calling Jews a "cancer"



CONFRONTING THE Nazis (above) **An EDL bonehead** (left)

PICTURES: GUY SMALLMAN



that had "swept Poland". He did not speak on Saturday because he was stopped from entering Britain.

Among the speakers at the UAF rally were local trade unionists, and black and Muslim activists.

One speaker, humanitarian worker Nizar, had flown back from Mosul in northern Iraq. He drove straight to Birmingham to confront

Britain First. The UAF rally was co-chaired by Charlie Williams who condemned the police for protecting the Nazis.

He said, "Birmingham stood strong today and once we built up the numbers the racist scumbags Britain First had no choice but to be escorted back home by the Police."

Outnumbered

There was a 150-strong anti-fascist turnout in Edinburgh where the Scottish Defence League SDL were outnumbered three to one.

Members of the Muslim Women's Association of Edinburgh were prominent on the demonstration. It was backed by a very large range

of trade union and community groups.

The Nazi groups in Britain remain fragmented and are generally able to mobilise only small numbers.

But a large march in London against "extremism" last Saturday involving some fascists shows there's no room for complacency (see below).

The left has grown hugely in confidence in recent weeks.

But as the populist racist UKIP party implodes electorally, a portion of its audience is open to the far right.

The left and all Jeremy Corbyn supporters can't ignore such developments.

We need to continue to build and strengthen UAF.

Danger from new right wing street movement

WHILE THE fascist EDL was marching in London, several thousand people gathered at London Bridge for a Football Lads Alliance—United Against Extremism march.

This was not a Nazi demonstration. Its crowdfunding page says, "We are a new movement with a new purpose to fight extremism, and we in no way display or condone racist behaviours."

But fascists were present, including members or former members of the British National Party and Combat 18. There were

groups from around 15 football clubs including Spurs, West Ham, Millwall, Portsmouth and Middlesbrough.

Organiser John Meighan's speech denounced "Islamic attacks" and demanded more terror laws. Others attacked feminists.

There is clearly a potential for far right groups to grow from such mobilisations, and it had some features of when the EDL first appeared.

Part of the response is that anti-racist football fans need to organise.

The Football Lads Alliance outside St Paul's cathedral on Saturday

Right wing Labour MPs undermine latest gains

Jeremy Corbyn's speech was a hit at Glastonbury—but not with the Labour right, writes **Nick Clark**

NEW POLLS have shown left wing Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn pushing his party to success. But right wing MPs and activists are already finding ways to drag it back to the right.

Popular left wing policies and exciting speeches to huge crowds of people give a sense that Corbyn could topple Theresa May's teetering Tory government.

In extraordinary scenes, Corbyn spoke to a gigantic crowd from the main stage at Glastonbury festival last Saturday afternoon. He promised the crowd that "another world is possible".

The sight of thousands at Glastonbury singing Corbyn's name shows again how far his promise of a radically different society has taken Labour.

It would never have happened for Ed Miliband, Gordon Brown or Tony Blair—and it has dramatically revived Labour's support.

A poll for the Sunday Times newspaper showed Labour was beating the Tories by five percentage points.

Just a few days before another poll by YouGov showed Corbyn is vastly more popular than May.

Even right wing Labour MPs and activists have been forced to admit that Corbyn's politics and leadership are behind Labour's new successes.

Yet at the same time those same MPs and activists are already making calls for Labour to move back to the right.

Unity

The right wing Labour faction Progress held its annual conference in London last Saturday. There were conscious displays of unity, with left wing shadow cabinet ministers Diane Abbott and Emily Thornberry given prominent speaking slots.

Progress chair MP Alison McGovern talked further left than Progress MPs have done in the past. She criticised Tory cuts to public services and low inheritance tax for the richest.

Meanwhile director Richard

BACK STORY

Both opinion polls carried out since the general election put Labour ahead of the Tories

- The latest, a poll of 5,000 for the Sunday Times newspaper, gives Labour a five point lead
- It also shows Jeremy Corbyn to be far more popular than Theresa May
- He has a positive approval rate of 17 points. May is on minus 17
- This continues the trend of Labour gains and Tory losses seen during the election

Angell spoke of how well Labour can do when its "two wings"—left and right—work together.

But he also said, "As Labour is losing working class votes we must do all we can to reconnect.

Security

"Be strong on national security. Show we offer solutions about no longer being left behind and show we respect—not recoil from—the values they hold dear and the work they do."

The right is digging up the old argument that only right wing policies can win working class support.

Yet the general election showed that Labour's support only shot back up because it broke from the right and offered a genuine alternative.

More of the same can't win back the working class votes that Labour shed under its right wing leaders.

So it was worrying that Corbyn's speech to the Unison union conference was less radical than his speech at Glastonbury, or even to his supporters outside the conference.

At Glastonbury Corbyn said the "politics that got out of the box" during the general election campaign "is not going back in any box".

That same message has to be taken into the trade unions and workplaces and onto the streets and used to build a movement to force the Tories out.

THE LABOUR leader was a big hit at the Glastonbury music festival last week

RAILWAYS

Bosses cut back, privatisate, and then blame unions when it all goes wrong

by RAYMIE KIERNAN

AS RAIL unions announced new strikes, a long-buried report by former Virgin Trains executive Chris Gibb blamed them for the mess at Southern rail.

Gibb was paid £1,500 a day to lead a "hit squad" for Tory transport secretary Chris Grayling.

His report, finally released last week after a seven month delay, blamed trade unions as the "primary cause" of the woeful Southern service.

It argues that trade unionists are responsible for cutting accessible travel for disabled people, cancelling thousands of services and underinvestment in rail infrastructure for years.

Bosses and politicians are the ones to blame for the "poor and unreliable" condition of railways.

Southern passengers filing for a judicial review on Thursday against the Department for Transport (DfT) see things quite differently to Gibb.

Many people are wondering if this was all that Gibb wrote.

STRIKE DATES

The release of the report came as unions announced more industrial action

- A coordinated strike of RMT members on Southern, Northern and Merseyrail is set for 10 July
- Merseyrail workers were also set to strike on 8 and 23 July, while Northern workers were set to walkout on 8 and 9 July
- Aslef union members on Southern have reinstated an overtime ban and were set to ballot for strikes

RMT rail union general secretary Mick Cash said, "No wonder the government have sat on the Gibb report for seven months. It's taken them that long to slice and fillet it into a document that they can spin up as an attack on the unions and the staff."

Bosses at Govia Thameslink Railway, Southern's owners, along with the DfT, have orchestrated the dispute with unions on Southern. It revolves around axing

the role of guards, extending what's called driver only operation (DOO).

Disputes over extending DOO, a Tory government priority, are spreading to other networks.

Unions rightly argue that this undermines safety.

Meanwhile, bosses keep claiming that an "independent" rail safety body, Rail Safety and Standards Board (RSSB), had given DOO a clean bill of health.

But Govia boss Charles Horton is one of RSSB's ten non-executive directors.

Just three of those directors are described by RSSB itself as "independent".

It has now been revealed that a senior RSSB official in charge of a major piece of research" looking at how to "significantly extend the coverage" in 2014 of DOO was working "on behalf of RDG rail safety and ultimately DfT".

Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn is right to call for renationalisation.

Socialist Worker fully backs rail workers fighting back against DOO and defending safe and accessible train travel for all.

Solidarity and unity after attack at mosque

A deadly attack in north London has been met by action to reject racism, writes Eleanor Claxton-Mayer

AROUND 300 people came together for a vigil at Finsbury Park Mosque in north London last week. It was in response to an Islamophobic attack that killed Makram Ali and injured a further 11 people.

Speakers included Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn.

A van was driven into people leaving Ramadan prayers just after midnight on 19 June. Darren Osborne from Cardiff has been charged with murder and attempted murder.

People came to the vigil to show solidarity with Muslims—and stand against the Islamophobia from the politicians and the press that fuelled this attack.

The authorities are reported to have decided that Osborne was “self-radicalised”. But it is the relentless diet of Islamophobia from people such as Theresa May, fascists and much of the media that is central to such attacks.

At the vigil Amirah told Socialist Worker, “We need to be more vocal and take on the racist narrative.”

Together

Mike from south west London added, “Today is about everyone coming together—we need to start challenging racism.”

The vigil was organised by the Finsbury Park Mosque and Stand Up To Racism (SUTR), and supported by Islington NUT teachers’ union and the Stop the War Coalition.

Corbyn, who is also MP for Islington North, spoke to large cheers. He said, “This is not the first time we’ve faced a crisis, the only response can be to come together.”

“We will not be divided.”

When Tory prime minister May visited the mosque the day before she was heckled by anti-racists who had come to show solidarity with the mosque.

Other speakers at the vigil included SUTR joint convenor Weyman Bennett and Finsbury Park Mosque chair Mohammed Kozbar.

There was a feeling of unity—and a determination to speak up

GET INVOLVED

Stand Up To Racism (SUTR) is fighting against Islamophobia and all other forms of racism

- SUTR has an anti-racist block on the People’s Assembly demonstration against the Tories this Saturday, 1 July. For details go to bit.ly/2u8KVj2
- It will highlight Theresa May’s scapegoating of migrants, refugees and Muslims and say that EU nationals are here to stay
- SUTR has a major national conference on Saturday 21 October in central London. For details and to register go to bit.ly/2tb9ONK

against the growing racist rhetoric from politicians and the press.

Muna told Socialist Worker, “The attack was completely out of the blue and many people are feeling unsure if it’s safe.”

“Women especially feel wearing the hijab draws attention to them.”

Hassan agreed. “My wife can’t go out on her own, the backlash after the previous terror attacks has been crazy,” he said.

But the event, which followed another hundreds-strong vigil held the previous day, gave people some confidence.

As Kamal told Socialist Worker, “It’s nice to see people with the same feeling coming together.”

Hassan added, “Something like this brings the community together and it makes me proud. The only way to defeat these kind of attacks is for good people to come out.”

In another sign of solidarity with Muslims, around 1,000 people joined a street Iftar (fast-breaking meal) last Friday outside the mosque.

Vigils were also held in several other towns and cities.



On other pages...

Defend migrants and freedom of movement >Pages 14&15



UNITY IN Finsbury Park

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

Islamophobic attacks soar as media and politicians push anti-Muslim hate

POLICE HAVE reported a surge in Islamophobic “hate crimes” after the Manchester and London Bridge terror attacks last month.

Greater Manchester Police said it had 224 reports of anti-Muslim hate crimes in the month after the Manchester bombing.

That’s a 505 percent rise on the 37 reported in the same period last year.

Monitoring group Tell Mama recorded a similar increase. It had 139 incidents in Manchester reported the week after the bombing, compared to 25 the week before.

It was a similar story after the London Bridge attack.

Verified

Tell Mama said there was a 240 percent increase in verified instances of anti-Muslim hate in the seven-day period following the attack.

The Mayor of London’s office also recorded a fivefold increase in Islamophobic attacks after the London Bridge attack.

Last week a Muslim man in Heckmondwike, West Yorkshire, was knocked out by thugs before racist graffiti was daubed on his

walls quoting a controversial tweet by right winger Katie Hopkins.

The victim was attacked from behind in his own home, struck on the head and left unconscious.

When he awoke he found racist graffiti daubed on his walls which included, “We need a final solution”.

Hopkins tweeted this in the wake of the Manchester attack.

Meanwhile two women in Whitley Bay near Newcastle, Kiran Loomba and Rajna Murria, were slapped and told to “get out of the country” on Tuesday of last week.

Kiran said, “My lip started bleeding and I was just in a state of shock.”

She added, “I have lived here for nearly two decades and all I think now is ‘is it safe for me to step outside?’”

Stand Up To Racism North East issued a statement. It said, “Those responsible for this hate crime are products of our current society where migrants and refugees are used as the scapegoat for all our problems.”

Intolerance

“This kind of intolerance offers no solutions whatsoever and only serves to divide us.”

“This cannot go on any longer—we must oppose this racism at every level.”

In Exeter residents came together to scrub off anti-Islamic graffiti which appeared on a wall on a residential street last weekend.

The giant slogan was daubed on a wall on Kinnerton Way, Exwick, in black paint.

It read, “Rise Against Islam.”

The council said it would remove it but residents decided there could be no delay and took action themselves.

Kiran Loomba was assaulted

Organise for justice

THE RESIDENTS, families and friends of Grenfell have launched an uprising against the murderous housing conditions and contempt for working class people.

Residents' committees should organise immediate rent strikes in all tower blocks until they are satisfied that they are safe.

Organised resistance will inspire others to tackle the massive housing crisis brought about by the banks, landlords and the Tory government.

Ron Senchak
Manchester

■ TORY APOLOGISTS for corporate murder are thankfully a despised minority.

This terrible event will hopefully finish off Theresa May and confine her to the dustbin of history.

Yunus Baksh
on Facebook

■ IMAGINE I ran a guest house which received a poor assessment for concerns about fire safety, and I suppressed or failed to act on that assessment.

I would be legitimately culpable for any injuries my guests suffered as the direct consequence of that negligence.

Why is our government less liable than we are?

David Smith
on Facebook

■ THE GRENFELL Tower tragedy has one source—the Tory council.

It has always neglected working class north Kensington in comparison with south Kensington.

Tory values subordinate humanity to the grim figures in an account book.

Zekria Ibrahim
West London



ILLUSTRATION: TIM SANDERS

The Daily Mail won't stop me protesting over Grenfell blaze

I WAS attacked in the Daily Mail newspaper last week, along with others on the left, for protesting over the Grenfell Tower fire.

I didn't realise it until I started getting random right wingers commenting on my Facebook page and messaging me. It was quite a shock.

People were sending me abusive messages. They fixated on the idea that I hate the government and the police.

I do hate the government and the police! But it felt like the attacks were racialised—as if I in particular am not allowed to be critical.

People sent messages saying if I don't like this country go somewhere else. Another told me

to go back to my communist country—wherever that is.

They used sexist language too. It gave me a sense of the kind of people who read the Daily Mail.

What they don't understand is that we live in tower blocks. Our friends live in tower blocks.

When the fire happened at Lakanal House in Camberwell in 2009 I was living next to it. My sister lost a classmate.

Grenfell is about all of us.

I don't feel at all apologetic or guilty for protesting. I think the people sending the messages, and the Mail, are trying to single me out.

They want me to feel like I'm the only one who's angry and protesting.

But when I'm on the demonstrations, I know that I'm not alone.

The right are ramping up hatred because they are frustrated after a bad general election for the Tories.

So they're becoming more vocal. They want to make the left feel bad.

They say we should have respect for the victims—as though protesting is disrespectful. But really they just don't want people to be on the streets.

They want us to mourn but not to fight.

But having respect for the victims means making sure this never happens again.

Nadia Sayed
East London

It was wrong for Unite to sack Gerard Coyne

GERARD COYNE, who lost the Unite union general secretary election, complained about Unite officials' involvement in the campaign that led to Len McCluskey's re-election.

The legal challenge, submitted the week before the general election, was timed to damage Jeremy Corbyn's chances.

But despite Coyne's disgraceful behaviour I think Unite's decision to sack him is poorly judged.

Coyne came within just over 5,000 votes of becoming general secretary. The sacking plays into his hands.

We need to marginalise the politics that Coyne represents. The best way to do that is for Unite's leadership to organise the strikes and protests that can finish the Tories off.

And it should give 100 percent support to Corbyn.

Pat Carmody
Unite member, Oxford

Shame on Radiohead

RADIOHEAD singer Thom Yorke has refused to observe the cultural boycott of Israel and will play a gig in Tel Aviv in July.

An open letter signed by Ken Loach, Pink Floyd's Roger Waters, Archbishop Desmond Tutu and dozens of others called on the band to cancel their gig.

It is hugely disappointing that such a high profile band refuses to acknowledge the wishes of the Palestinian people, who

initiated the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) campaign.

Israel wants Western bands and DJs to play Tel Aviv, to present the city as hedonistic, liberal and progressive.

This allows it to drown out the suffering of the

Palestinians, most of whom will not be able to attend the gig.

Yorke's band will make itself complicit in the crimes carried out by the Israeli state. It still has time to reconsider.

Joe Redmond
Cardiff

Just a thought...

Don't use fear to attack poor

LBC RADIO posed the disgusting question, "Should we cut foreign aid to keep bobbies on the beat?"

Cunning beyond belief. Bombard people with fear of atrocities then offer security only in return for denying aid to the poor.

Alice Wickham
Teddington

Well done to post workers

WHERE I used to work, the managers used to jump in and help clear a backlog (Post workers deliver wildcat strikes, 21 June).

What happened to the spirit of cooperation and keeping up workers' morale?

Louise McDonald
on Facebook

■ WELL DONE for standing up to them. More of us need to do the same!

Frank Mulholland
on Facebook

Magic money tree for HS2

HS2 MADE it into the queen's speech.

Despite claims that there is no "magic money tree", there clearly is one for HS2.

We must hope it does not stand in one of the dozens of ancient woodlands due to be decimated by HS2.

HS2 will only benefit the richest who can afford to use it—and the corporations who will rake in billions for building it.

Joe Rukin
Campaign manager, Stop HS2

Push for profit puts us at risk

PROFIT BEFORE safety (Neoliberalism could be on its way out, 21 June).

That's why Southern Rail, Northern and Merseyrail are in dispute with the RMT.

They want to make more profit by removing train guards, who are a vital safety critical role.

Jon Long
on Facebook

■ I NEVER saw 'people before profit' as a slogan. I saw it as good sense. Profit's not a lot of use, nor achieved, without people.

Rachael Williams
on Facebook

A class divide runs right down the middle of Kensington and Chelsea where the Grenfell fire took place, residents of the west London borough told **Alistair Farrow**

THE GRENFELL Tower fire has exposed the deep inequality at the heart of Kensington and Chelsea. The inequality and segregation that divides the borough goes back decades.

In the 1960s plans to build a motorway from central London to Acton were hatched by the council leaders and the Greater London Council (GLC). They decided it should go through the working class communities in the north of the borough.

Construction on the Westway began in 1964. Streets were cut in two to make way for the flyover. Upper floor flats looked out onto the motorway and were exposed to pollution, noise and car lights at night.

Residents waged a bitter fight against its construction, but the council simply ignored their complaints.

Tory grandee Michael Heseltine, then a junior minister for transport, faced protests when he came to open the motorway in 1970.

Afterwards the council set up the Westway Trust to manage the 23 acres of land underneath the motorway. The land was given to local people as community space by way of apology for tearing up their homes.

But just as the residents of Grenfell Tower were repeatedly ignored, so were people cut out of democratic control over the land under the Westway. The trust's real aim was to fox off residents who wanted a say in how the land was used.

Rehoused

The campaign did manage to get many of the people living alongside the Westway rehoused. But the area around the motorway remains more impoverished than the rest of the borough.

To this day, the council wards through which the Westway snakes have the highest concentration of poverty in Kensington and Chelsea.

Hafsa, a resident, told Socialist Worker, "When you walk down to Holland Park and Notting Hill you see that's where the rich people live. If you walk towards the north, Latbroke Grove and Latimer Road, you'll see more of the housing blocks."

Figures released last week by the London Poverty Profile website show that five wards in the borough have child poverty rates above the average in Britain. Of these, the Westway runs through three.

This extreme inequality in

Kensington and Chelsea—it was declared the most unequal borough in Britain—has been a long time in the making.

On the Friday after the fire, survivors and supporters marched from the borough town hall to Grenfell Tower. As they passed by the posh bars and balconies of south Kensington, protesters accused the well-heeled spectators of benefitting from the ever-deepening inequality.

Watching

"They were just up there watching from their balconies," Hafsa said. "The people that were on the protest were the people who live in council housing. The richer side weren't on the protest. Kensington and Chelsea is an area that splits into two."

She added, "Things have got more expensive in our area as time has gone by. More rich people are moving into houses nearby—that pushes up prices. Next to each other you'll have a council block then some nice big expensive houses."

IT WAS rich residents in the borough who allegedly pressured the council to attach Grenfell Tower's flammable cladding to hide the tower's concrete face. Directly after the refurbishment of Grenfell in 2015 council leader Nicholas Paget-Brown declared, "It is remarkable to see first-hand how the cladding has lifted the external appearance of the tower."

Now the whole world can see what his vanity project has cost ordinary people.

And Grenfell Tower is far from the exception to business as usual in Kensington and Chelsea.

The tragedy is the grim culmination of years of economic segregation and running down of public services.

The borough's demographics have changed over time. But poverty

Cheek by jowl

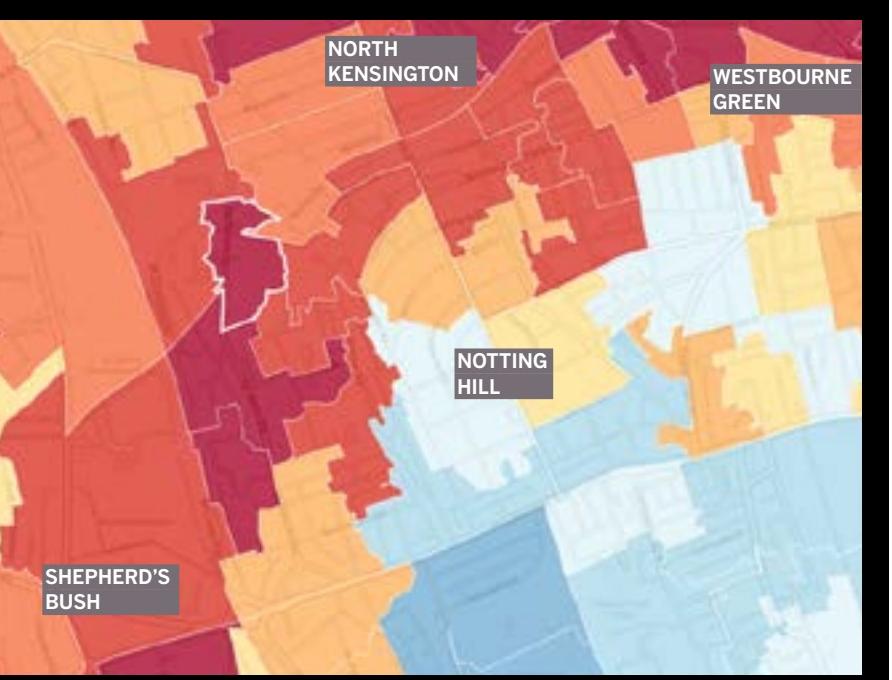
KENSINGTON and Chelsea in west London is Britain's most unequal borough.

Some of the richest places in Europe (in blue) are just metres away from pockets of severe poverty (in red).

The highlighted segment contains the location of Grenfell Tower.

It also includes the sports centre under the Westway motorway flyover, where survivors were reliant on help from volunteers.

A few streets away is rich Notting Hill—whose residents include David Cameron.



remains concentrated in certain parts of the borough.

While people move around, the class makeup of Kensington and Chelsea has shifted little. In fact, figures suggest the borough has become more segregated by class, not less.

This polarisation has deep roots.

Poverty

Between 1980 and 1990, the number of households living in poverty increased by 29 percent. In the same period, the population increased by just 1.6 percent.

That trend continues today. Kensington and Chelsea is the only London borough that has seen its population drop over recent years.

But the number of people living in poverty has not dropped.

That suggests that poor people are being squeezed by rocketing rents rather than being pushed out.

That's not to say that the Tory council hasn't done its best to drive the poor out of the borough. "Regeneration" projects are all about

THAT ARGUMENT disappeared when the council—under pressure from anger over the deaths at Grenfell—put aside some 70 flats in south Kensington for survivors.

Teaching assistant and housing activist Jan lives in Kensington and Chelsea. She told Socialist Worker that council attempts to force people out of the borough were nothing new.

"The council has been doing it for years," she said.

"What has frightened me as well as many other council tenants is the

"We don't want to be second class citizens because we live in council homes

Rock Feilding-Mellen senior councillor

THE WESTWAY motorway (main picture) tore a strip out of north Kensington's working class communities. Residents resisted—and kept protesting after it was built (above left). Like the Grenfell survivors today, people stuck with the noise and fumes had to fight to be rehoused (left)

regeneration of estates. I've seen what's gone on in the Silchester Estate. They wanted to knock that down but people fought back against the plans.

"The one thing I hope the council has learned is that they need to halt these regeneration schemes."

Now the Tories' Housing and Planning Act is making it even easier for councils to wage war on tenants.

Worst

Kensington and Chelsea was even implementing some of the worst aspects of the act before it passed through parliament. It introduced fixed term tenancies of as little as two years that forced tenants to leave once their contract ran out.

That means people in social housing can't plan for their futures. It reinforces the Tory belief that social housing shouldn't mean a home for life, ignoring the fact that council housing pays for itself.

That Tory attitude is why the council has spent decades neglecting and marginalising the poorest people in the borough. Now an entire community has been ripped apart as a result. "We've lost a little girl in our school, and her parents," Jan told Socialist Worker.

"My granddaughter's lost a girl from her class in school. I've never been so devastated—everyone around here knows someone who was lost in the fire. We don't want to be treated as second class citizens because we live in council property."

The gulf between rich and poor in Kensington is part and parcel of a system that puts profit ahead of the lives of ordinary people.

The potential for more disasters like Grenfell will continue unless we bring that system down.

"We don't want to be second class citizens because we live in council homes

Jan teaching assistant and activist

WHAT WE STAND FOR

These are the core politics of the Socialist Workers Party.

INDEPENDENT WORKING CLASS ACTION

Under capitalism workers' labour creates all profit. A socialist society can only be constructed when the working class seizes control of the means of production and democratically plans how they are used.

REVOLUTION NOT REFORM

The present system cannot be patched up or reformed as the established Labour and trade union leaders say.

It has to be overthrown. Capitalism systematically degrades the natural world. Ending environmental crisis means creating a new society.

THERE IS NO PARLIAMENTARY ROAD

The structures of the present parliament, army, police and judiciary cannot be taken over and used by the working class. They grew up under capitalism and are designed to protect the ruling class against the workers.

The working class needs an entirely different kind of state—a workers' state based upon councils of workers' delegates and a workers' militia.

At most parliamentary activity can be used to make propaganda against the present system.

Only the mass action of the workers themselves can destroy the system.

INTERNATIONALISM

The struggle for socialism is part of a worldwide struggle. We campaign for solidarity with workers in other countries.

We oppose everything which turns workers from one country against those from other countries.

We oppose racism and imperialism. We oppose all immigration controls.

We support the right of black people and other oppressed groups to organise their own defence. We support all genuine national liberation movements.

The experience of Russia demonstrates that a socialist revolution cannot survive in isolation in one country.

In Russia the result was state capitalism, not socialism. In Eastern Europe and China a similar system was later established by Stalinist parties. We support the struggle of workers in these countries against both private and state capitalism.

We are for real social, economic and political equality of women. We are for an end to all forms of discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

We defend the right of believers to practise their religion without state interference.

THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

To achieve socialism the most militant sections of the working class have to be organised into a revolutionary socialist party.

Such a party can only be built by activity in the mass organisations of the working class.

We have to prove in practice to other workers that reformist leaders and reformist ideas are opposed to their own interests. We have to build a rank and file movement within the unions.

To join us, turn to page 16 or go to www.swp.org.uk or phone 020 7840 5602 for more information

{ SOCIALIST WORKER } PUBLIC MEETINGS

GLASGOW

Music and politics

Thu 13 Jul, 7pm,
Avant Garde,
33-44 King St,
Merchant City,
G1 5QT

{ SOCIALIST WORKER } BRANCH MEETINGS

Weekly meetings to discuss political issues and our local interventions. All welcome.

ABERDEEN

Do we need a progressive alliance?

Wed 5 Jul, 6pm,
Belmont Cinema Cafe,
49 Belmont St,
AB10 1JS

BARNESLEY

A rebel's guide to Trotsky

Thu 13 Jul, 7pm,
YMCA,
Blucher St,
S70 1AP

BRADFORD

1917—when workers took power in Russia

Thu 13 Jul, 7pm,
Glyde House,
Little Horton Lane
(opposite the ice rink),
BD5 0BQ

BRIGHTON

War and sectarianism in the Middle East

Thu 13 Jul, 7.30pm,
Friends Meeting House,
Ship St,
BN1 1AF

BRISTOL

Should the left call for more police?

Wed 12 Jul, 7.30pm,
YHA, 14 Narrow Quay,
BS1 4QA

BURNLEY AND PENDLE

The US working class struggle and its fightback

Wed 12 Jul, 7.30pm,
Red Triangle Cafe,
160 St James's St,
BB11 1NR

CARDIFF

How can we beat the Tories?

Wed 12 Jul, 7.30pm,
Cathays Community Centre,
Cathays Terrace,
CF24 4HX

CHESTERFIELD

Imperialism and capitalism in Africa

Thu 13 Jul, 7.30pm,
Chesterfield Library,
New Beetwell St, S40 1QN

COVENTRY

Jeremy Corbyn, Labour and the fight for socialism

Wed 12 Jul, 7.30pm,
West Indian Centre,
15 Spon St, CV1 3BB

MARK 100 years since a socialist revolution shook the world, learn its lessons and study its legacy with these newly released books.

Dave Sherry celebrates a festival of the oppressed.

Tim Sanders and John Newsinger bring it to life in a graphic novel. SA Smith looks at its historical context.

SOCIALIST WORKER PUBLIC MEETINGS



Cleaners on strike—working people can run the world

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

What would socialism look like in Britain?

BOLTON

Thu 13 Jul, 7pm,
Friends Meeting Club,
16 Wood St (off
Bradshawgate),
BL1 1DY

HARLOW

Thu 13 Jul, 7.30pm,
Friends Meeting House,
1 Church Leys,
CM18 6BX

LONDON: BRIXTON

Wed 12 Jul, 7pm,
Vida Walsh Centre,
2b Saltoun Rd (near Effra Rd,
facing Windrush Square),
SW2 1EP

MANCHESTER: LONGSIGHT AND LEVENSULME

Thu 13 Jul, 7.30pm,
Inspire, 747 Stockport Rd,
M19 3AR

SHEFFIELD: CITY CENTRE

Thu 13 Jul, 7pm,
Central United
Reformed Church,
60 Norfolk St, S1 2JB

DERBY

Who are the DUP? A brief history of hate

Thu 13 Jul, 7pm,
West End Community Centre,
Mackworth Rd (next
to Britannia Mill),
DE22 3BL

EDINBURGH

What are the origins of racism?

Wed 12 Jul, 7.30pm,
Friends Meeting House,
7 Victoria St, EH1 2JL

LEEDS: CITY CENTRE

Building the resistance

Thu 13 Jul, 7pm,
The Swarthmore
Education Centre,
2-7 Woodhouse Square,
LS3 1AD

LEICESTER

No justice, no peace—can Corbyn make a difference?

Wed 12 Jul, 7pm,
Leicester LGBT Centre,
15 Wellington St,
LE1 6HH

LONDON: BRENT AND HARROW

Who are the DUP? A brief history of hate

Thu 13 Jul, 7.30pm,
The Pepperpot Centre,
1a Thorpe Close,
Ladbrooke Grove, W10 5XL

LONDON: CENTRAL

Who are the DUP? A brief history of hate

Thu 13 Jul, 6.30pm,
Room 130, UCL,
Foster Court Building,
WC1E 6BT

LONDON: HACKNEY

Can there be a revolution in Britain?

Thu 13 Jul, 7.30pm,
2 Powerscroft Rd (corner
Lower Clapton Rd)
E5 0PU

LONDON: ISLINGTON

How can the left shape Brexit?

Thu 13 Jul, 7pm,
The Old Fire Station,
84 Mayton St,
N7 6QT

LONDON: LEWISHAM

Can there be a revolution in Britain?

Thu 13 Jul, 7.30pm,
West Greenwich Community
and Arts Centre,
141 Greenwich High Rd,
SE10 8JA

LONDON: TOWER HAMLETS

Coalition of chaos—the ugly face of the DUP

Wed 5 Jul, 7pm,
Oxford House,
Derbyshire St, E2 6HG

LONDON: WALTHAM FOREST

Can there be a revolution in Britain?

Wed 12 Jul, 7.30pm,
Quaker Meeting House,
1a Jewel Rd (off Hoe St),
E17 4QU

MANCHESTER: CHORLTON

Who are the DUP? A brief history of hate

Wed 5 Jul, 7.30pm,
Chorlton Central Church
(Meeting Room),
Barlow Moor Rd, M21 8BF

MEDWAY

The hidden crisis—how do we stop climate change?

Thu 13 Jul, 7.30pm,
Nucleus Arts Centre
(Conference Room),
272 High St,
ME4 4BP

NORWICH

Can socialism come through parliament?

Thu 13 Jul, 7.30pm,
Vauxhall Centre,
Johnson Place, NR2 2SA

OXFORD

After the Grenfell fire—how can we fight for justice?

Wed 12 Jul, 7.30pm,
Restore,
Manzil Way
(off Cowley Rd),
OX4 1YH

POOLE AND DORCHESTER

Ireland—Britain's first colony

Mon 10 Jul, 7.15pm,
Goldies Public House,
36 High E St, DT1 1HN

PORSCHE

Is austerity over?

Wed 5 Jul, 7.30pm,
Somersetown
Community Centre,
River's St,
P05 4EZ

SCARBOROUGH

Vaclav Havel and the Velvet Revolution in Czechoslovakia

Wed 5 Jul, 7.30pm,
Tap and Spile,
94 Falsgrave Rd,
YO12 5AZ

SWANSEA

The Russian Revolution 100 years on—winning workers' power

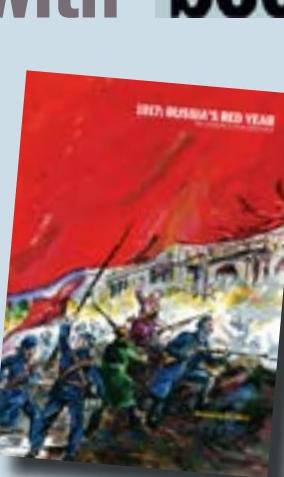
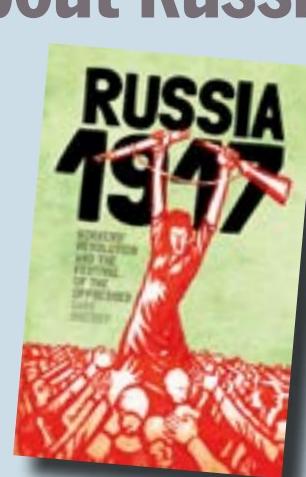
Thu 13 Jul, 7.30pm,
Brynmill Community
Centre, St Albans Rd,
SA2 0BP

YORK

Art, commodity and revolution

Wed 5 Jul, 7.30pm,
Sea Horse Hotel,
4 Fawcett St, YO10 4AH

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{ MOVEMENT EVENTS }

LONDON

Not one day more #ToriesOut National Demonstration

Sat 1 July, 12 noon,
BBC Broadcasting House,
Portland Place,
London,
W1A 1AA

Britain still needs a pay rise

Mon 17 July, 5.30pm,
Trade Union Congress,
Congress House,
23-28 Great Russell St,
Bloomsbury, WC1B 3LS

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New exhibition celebrates our unity against the racists

An art exhibition in London and Middlesbrough shows black artists taking on racism and empire but it falls short on class politics, says **Antony Hamilton**

THE SOUTH London Gallery and Middlesbrough Institute for Modern Art are hosting an exhibition which displays the works of over 20 black artists.

The focus is the turmoil and anti-racist battles of the 1980s.

The exhibition follows a number of collectives and individuals as they tackle questions of racism, nationality, sexuality and identity.

There are a variety of paintings, photos and prints from various artists including Eddie Chambers, Zarina Bhimji and Rasheed Araeen.

The works are bold and antagonistic. As you walk around you are drawn on a journey.

The exhibition bites back at the British flag, the dominance of the British Empire and what it means to be black and British.

In one piece, Chila Kumari Burman uses pictures from Socialist Worker to describe the armed resistance of women in the Eritrean People's Liberation Front.

Strength

There are videos of black faces. Sculptures show the sexualisation of black bodies and a headless body propped up by a tree, signifying their strength in their roots.

On the first floor, there are two films playing.

One questions the role of black people in the anti-Thatcher struggles.

The other looks at the effect of migration from the Commonwealth.

In this exhibition, being black is political. That's something that is still fought for today.

The exhibition is a welcome relief in a year where unity is necessary.

Hollywood is putting a huge amount of resources into films praising Winston Churchill or the generosity of the British Empire such as Viceroy's House.

But the exhibition is limited by the amount of work displayed.

More coverage of the anti-fascist movement in the late 70's and 80's where the black working class played a major role should have been a priority.

There are some anti-racist posters from the Greater London Council (GLC) before it was disbanded by the Tories. But it fails to go far enough in saying who has the power to end racism.

Ultimately the lack of class politics in the exhibition leaves it feeling like it doesn't go far enough.

It leaves the question of fighting racism to how an individual responds.

The Place is Here exhibition. South London Gallery 22 June–10 Sep. Middlesbrough Institute for Modern Art 17 June–8 October

These Trees are Made of Blood



NEIL KELSO as magician Sub Lieutenant Suarez in These Trees are Made of Blood

PICTURE: HELEN MURRAY

A jarring cabaret of state oppression

THEATRE

THESE TREES ARE MADE OF BLOOD

Arcola theatre, east London. Until 15 July. Go to arcolatheatre.com

THIS HORRIFYING cabaret pays tribute to the Madres de la Plaza de Mayo—women who never stopped searching for their children “disappeared” by Argentina’s dictatorship.

It’s both strange and strangely effective. The right wing regime that seized power in 1976 is reimagined as a raucous variety

show. Its compere is a military dictator making tasteless jokes about killing and torturing the opposition.

The fun is only marred by the mother of one victim refusing to play along.

Despite a routine put together to bury the truth, her intransigence gradually brings to light the terrible violence being committed out of sight.

There is kidnapping, torture, rape and murder, all sponsored by the CIA.

The transition from comedy to horror is excruciatingly

uncomfortable and deliberately so. It’s jarring and inappropriate as befits state terror.

This emphasises the shock and isolation felt by the victims and pricks the grotesque pomposity of the autocrat.

Strong performances by Ellen O’Grady as the mother and Rob Castell as the General sharpen the contrast.

But the real stars are the play’s inspiration—the ordinary people who refused to quietly accept the crimes their rulers committed against them.

Dave Sewell

OBITUARY

Prodigy 1974-2017

US RAPPER Prodigy died on Wednesday of last week.

As one half of Mobb Deep he released some of the standout rap music of the 1990s. Their 1995 album *The Infamous* combines a burning hatred of the police with vivid descriptions of street life in 1990s New York.

Mobb Deep moved a long way politically, from saying “no matter how much loot I get I’m staying

Rapper Prodigy

in the projects... forever,” to making music videos on luxury yachts.

Despite that, *The Infamous* and *Juvenile Hell* albums more than stand the test of time.

Pay tribute to a pathbreaker by getting back into Mobb Deep.

MUSIC

GRENFELL TOWER TRIBUTE

Big Zuu

GRIME MC Big Zuu has released a track commemorating the dead of Grenfell Tower, tapping into the deep anger felt across Britain at the murder.

It features parts of Akala’s interview with Channel 4 in which he slams the government and council for letting people die because they were poor.

Lines include, “Bun the government, this city’s ours!”

Listen to the track at bit.ly/2rU7dbl

FESTIVAL

GREENWICH AND DOCKLANDS INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

Late June to early July. Free

LONDON PLAYS host to the Greenwich and Docklands International Festival through late June and early July. Highlights include free shows such as the Dancing City set to take place on 1 July which sees dance shows throughout Canary Wharf across the day.

For more information, go to bit.ly/2rFNN69



ENDING freedom of movement for European Union (EU) migrants is a vicious attack, despite Theresa May's miserly offer of a partial and conditional amnesty last week.

People whose right to live in Britain was until now largely secure will have to justify it to a hostile bureaucracy (see right).

There have been two main responses from the left to the war on migrants.

Both see ending freedom of movement as an inseparable part of Brexit.

For some, including Labour's left wing leadership, this means accepting its end as inevitable.

For others it means jumping in behind the Labour right, the Lib Dems and the Green Party to frustrate the decision to leave the EU.

They want to keep Britain within the EU single market. Its neoliberal rules restrict governments' rights to implement policies, such as nationalisation, that could interfere with bosses' profits.

Both routes are dead ends. There's no reason Brexit has to change Britain's immigration policy.

Leaving the EU gives the British government leeway to grant more rights to migrants from outside the EU.

It doesn't compel Britain to take rights away from EU nationals. Labour could easily pledge to grant them the same rights under British law that they have under EU rules.

This would be possible—and popular.

Pressure

May's announcement, which grants some residency rights, shows the pressure she is under.

Keeping migrants' rights wouldn't mean ignoring the referendum result.

People voted on Britain's EU membership, not its immigration policy.

While hostility to immigration motivated many Leave voters, it wasn't the driving force behind the Brexit vote. Many saw it as a chance to hit back at the establishment.

Backing the bosses' single market is not a price worth paying to guarantee freedom of movement—because it doesn't guarantee it at all.

The single market's most committed supporters see freedom of movement as a necessary evil or optional extra.

Their argument is not about migrants' rights, but the impact that leaving the single market will supposedly have on jobs.

But bosses always claim that any reform that challenges their interests would cause job losses.

If we listened to them there would be no ban on child labour, no safety laws and no minimum wage.

A group of 38 Labour MPs

signed a letter last week calling for Britain to stay in the single market. It brought together some of Jeremy Corbyn's most prominent critics and allowed them to regroup without risking a frontal attack.

The first signatory is Chuka Umunna, who has proposed immigration reforms in some ways nastier than the Tories'.

They include regional visas, which would require internal passport controls.

The letter points out that,



Protesting for migrants' rights on the Stand Up To Racism demonstration in March

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

DEFEND MIGRANTS, NOT THE EU

The left needs clarity in the Brexit debate. **Dave Sewell** argues that socialists should defend freedom of movement for EU migrants—and dump the bosses' single market

Jeremy Corbyn should defend free movement

“Leaving the EU doesn't compel Britain to take away rights from migrants”

“Within the European treaties, free movement is not unconditional.

“At the moment we can require EU citizens to leave if they have no job or a prospect of a job three months after their arrival.

“Restrictions on free movement are explicitly allowed for reasons of ‘public policy, public security or public health’.

“Liechtenstein, which is outside the EU but in the single market, perfectly

legally imposes quotas on EU migrants”.

In other words, neither they nor the single market are on the side of migrants. Nor are leading Lib Dem Vince Cable or Europhile Tory Ken Clarke who have made similar arguments.

The signatories could have added that the single market rules restrict trade union rights.

It has even banned unions from campaigning against unequal pay for migrant workers.

They also forgot to add that EU member states only get freedom of movement for their own citizens on the condition that they tighten restrictions on non-EU migrants.

Nor did they mention that there is currently a brutal EU-wide drive to deport plane-loads of Afghans.

A central problem for the left is that while there is deep anger at the elites, the racist right often capitalises on it.

Stopping this means explicitly opposing the right wing's arguments against immigration—and offering a real alternative to the establishment that people right to hate.

THAT MEANS disentangling people's justified anger at the EU politicians and bosses from the dangerous racism that scapegoats migrants.

Only this kind of approach can win support for freedom of movement from masses of Leave-voting workers.

Tying anti-racism to the defence of the single market fatally undermines it.

It tells those already motivated to defend migrants' rights to rely on institutions that treat them with contempt.

It tells those who rightly hate those institutions that the anti-racist left has nothing to offer.

It suits the right and the ruling class to make the question of “soft” versus “hard” Brexit the main dividing line.

But there's no reason for the left to be stuck in this false dilemma.

The Brexit vote, Donald Trump's election, and the collapse of mainstream parties in recent French elections all showed old political certainties can be overtuned.

Jeremy Corbyn's campaign saw Labour take some seats that voted Leave and others that voted Remain.

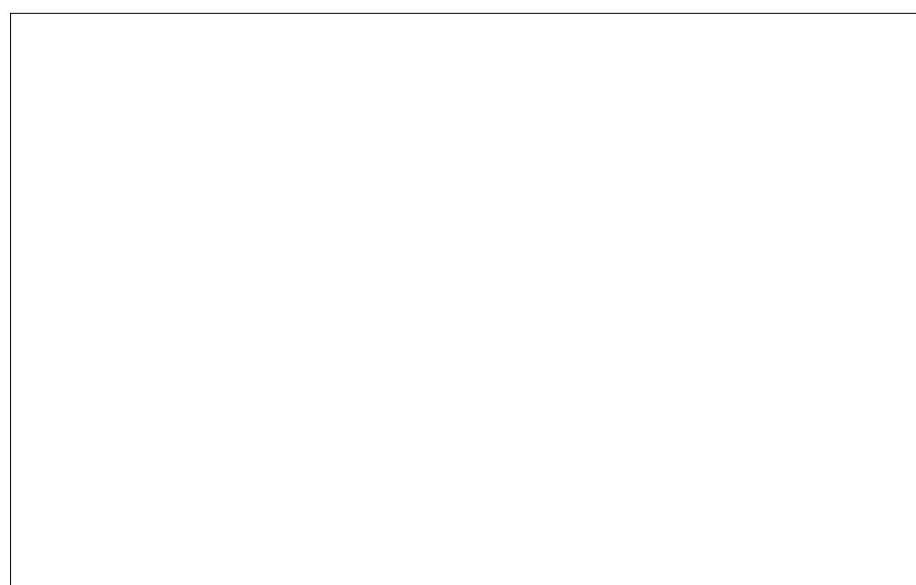
This success shows that appealing to working class interests with socialist policies can overcome the Brexit divide.

Staying within the undemocratic and neoliberal single market limits Labour's ability to offer such policies.

The debate about what type of Brexit is best for “Britain” is really about what policy best suits the ruling class.

But workers have different interests—interests that neither side will put forward.

We must fight for freedom of movement and against the single market.



Only some European Union migrants' rights are being guaranteed

Theresa May is still using EU migrants as bargaining chips

EU NATIONALS who can prove they have been in Britain for five years may get to apply for residency.

This offer excludes many of the 3 million EU nationals in Britain who haven't lived here that long.

Those migrants who arrived before a "cut off" point could only apply for residency after working in Britain for five years.

The cut off point would be sometime between March 2016 and 2019.

May said it was a "generous offer", but these rights are conditional. May refuses to guarantee it before other EU states make a similar offer.

Cynically

May and her EU counterparts are cynically using migrant lives as bargaining chips.

As non-EU nationals have found since long before Brexit, the British state makes getting a visa a complex and costly ordeal.

Here to work? You'll need an employer willing to sponsor you.

Outside of certain jobs deemed essential, such as nursing, they must meet strict criteria.

They must show that the position is "skilled"—that is, sufficiently well-paid—and

that they've tried and failed to find a British person to do the job.

You're legally at the back of the queue, and few bosses will bother doing the legwork to get you to the front.

Here to join a partner who has got British nationality? You could get a spouse visa—as long as your partner earns enough.

Here to study? Pay all the visa fees and tuition fees, make a life here, and then have it all put in jeopardy as soon as you graduate.

Extending this monstrous system to EU nationals is a vindictive attack on them—and on the whole working class.

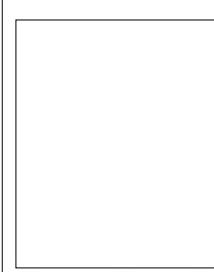
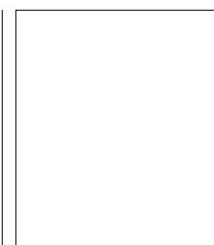
For all the talk of migrants driving down wages, there is no hope in hell that ending freedom of movement will drive wages up.

Tougher immigration controls make swathes of the working class more vulnerable, and easier to bully into working for less.

Farm workers declared "illegal" will fear being deported if they speak up.

Everyone in need of a work visa will feel pressure to keep on their sponsor boss's good side.

This is a weapon that workers must keep out of their enemies' hands.



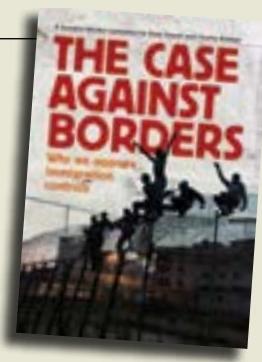
Theresa May and EU president Donald Tusk are playing games with migrants' livelihoods

READ MORE

● The Case Against Borders—why we oppose immigration controls by Dave Sewell and Charlie Kimber £2

● The single market is a tool for the bosses Socialist Worker article bit.ly/2sxZC18

Available at Bookmarks, the socialist bookshop. Phone 020 7637 1848 or go to bookmarksbookshop.co.uk



Supporting national rights strengthened the revolt

The Bolsheviks backed national rights for oppressed groups as a way of overcoming 'Greater Russian chauvinism'

SOCIALIST internationalism ran through the Russian Revolution of 1917.

The revolutionary Vladimir Lenin and the Bolshevik party always argued that the revolution was part of a global working class movement and had to spread.

But they also understood the need to support national self-determination for oppressed peoples.

They couldn't afford to get this "national question" wrong.

Before the Russian Revolution, the Tsarist empire was known as the "prison house of nations".

Stretching across Europe and Asia, more than half of the people inside it were not actually Russian.

To bind this together the Tsarist dictatorship used nationalist "Greater Russian chauvinism".

The grip of this reactionary ideology on Russian workers and peasants posed a big problem for revolutionaries.

The 1903 congress of the revolutionary Russian Social Democratic and Labour Party (RSDLP) backed the "right to self-determination for all nations included within the bounds of the state".

Language

All citizens would have the "right to receive education in their native language".

At the same 1903 congress the RSDLP also split into two factions, the Bolsheviks and Mensheviks.

It was the Bolsheviks who really understood the need to support national rights. They saw a difference between the nationalism of advanced capitalist countries and that of oppressed peoples and colonies.

When workers and peasants rose up during the 1905 Revolution, there were also struggles by oppressed peoples in the far flung



ANTI-WAR MARCHERS in Petrograd on 18 June 1917

1917 TIMELINE

On 18 June (1 July by the modern calendar)

- Kerensky launches a fresh offensive on the Eastern Front—and Russia suffers devastating losses
- Some 400,000 workers and soldiers protest against the war, nearly all of them carrying Bolshevik banners

corners of the empire.

The Polish German revolutionary Rosa Luxemburg opposed Poland's right to independence, fearing it would sow division in the working class.

Lenin responded, "In her anxiety not to assist the 'nationalist' bourgeoisie in Poland, Rosa Luxemburg is assisting the Russian Black Hundreds."

The Black Hundreds were nationalist murder squads that purged Jews, Poles, Ukrainians and many other peoples.

Lenin argued that winning Russian workers to supporting Poland's rights would help break the hold of reactionary

chauvinism. It would make the working class stronger.

The Bolsheviks also saw oppressed people in the colonies as allies in the fight against imperialism.

In October 1917 the working class seized power through their workers' councils ("soviets").

One month later the new revolutionary government decreed the "equality and sovereignty of the peoples of Russia" and their right to self-determination and independence.

It decreed that regions with minorities should have "autonomy".

Equality

The minority language would have full equality "in all spheres of social and political activity".

Many critics of the party point to future dictator Joseph Stalin's work on the national question in 1913.

He said a nation was formed "on the basis of a common language, territory, economic life, and a common culture".

After Stalin's counter revolution, this definition was used as an excuse to oppress some minorities.

Particularly in large areas of Russia that were less advanced, many people's had not developed a "national" language or culture.

In contrast, the Bolsheviks' approach was to fight for people's national rights.

This is part of a series of weekly articles on the Russian Revolution. Read our coverage at tinyurl.com/sw1917

"The Bolsheviks saw oppressed people in the colonies as allies



Pro-Palestine activists win legal battle

A COURT ruling slapped down Tory attempts to curb the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) campaign last week—giving a boost to pro-Palestinian campaigners.

The High Court ruled last Thursday that the government had acted unlawfully in trying to stop councils divesting from firms linked to Israel's occupation of Palestine.

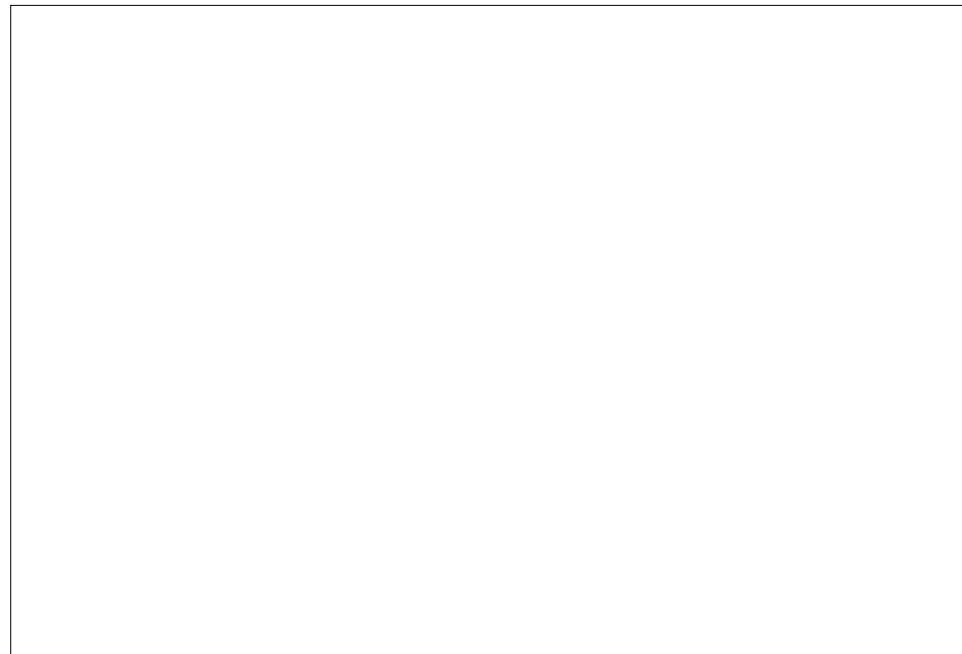
Tory communities and local government secretary Sajid Javid issued “guidance” to councils last September.

It warned that “using pension policies to pursue boycotts, divestment and sanctions against foreign nations and UK defence industries are inappropriate”.

Improperly

But last week a High Court judge said the government had acted improperly by trying to use pension law to support its own foreign policy and to try to ban BDS.

The ruling was the result of a legal challenge by the Palestine Solidarity Campaign (PSC), War on Want, the Campaign Against the



PSC SUPPORTERS outside the court

Arms Trade and the Quakers.

PSC chair Hugh Lanning said, “Today is a victory for Palestine. Absolutely everyone has a right to peacefully protest at Israel’s violation of Palestinian human rights.”

Yet Javid has already launched yet another attack.

He has warned that the Palestine Expo, set to take place next month, could be cancelled.

The event is set to take place in central London’s QEII venue, which is run by Javid’s government department. But Javid

warned the event’s organisers—the predominantly Muslim group Friends of Al-Aqsa—that he could cancel their contract.

A letter on Javid’s behalf said he had “concerns” that the organisers support Hamas and Hezbollah, which resist

the Israeli occupation.

The threat came after lawyers from a pro-Israel pressure group Jewish Human Rights Watch wrote to the QEII claiming that “this event is a front for Jew hate”.

“The main groups are organisations promoting Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) in relation to Israel, a known antisemitic movement,” they said.

Antisemitism

Pro-Israel groups have waged a campaign against events and organisations supporting the Palestinians in recent months, particularly in universities, with false claims of antisemitism.

More than 100 supporters of Israel met for a conference in north London last Saturday, which Socialist Worker gained access to.

Many were the same people who disrupted pro-Palestine events on campuses—including an attempt to provoke protesters at Soas in central London in May.

They are preparing for the 100 year anniversary of the Balfour Declaration, made in November 1917, in which

Britain promised colonial settlers a “Jewish homeland” on Palestinian owned land.

The realisation of that promise in 1948 saw tens of thousands of Palestinians killed and hundreds of thousands forced to flee.

Speaking to the conference Labour peer Lord Turnberg congratulated pro-Israel activists who have tried to shut down support for Palestine on campuses.

One session, “Who are our opponents”, named pro-Palestinian groups—including the PSC, Friends of Al-Aqsa, and the Socialist Workers Party—as groups to look out for.

Other sessions tried to prepare answers for “difficult questions” about Israel’s treatment of the Palestinians.

Yet while delegates were ready to aggressively defend Israel, they were all frustrated that support for Palestine is growing.

There was a sense of urgency that they were losing the argument.

Strong and defiant campaigns can stop those who want to drive back support for Palestine.

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Israel's power cuts push the Gaza Strip deeper into crisis

Gaza is facing a massive power shortage implemented by Israel. With hospitals and sewage systems at breaking point, tensions are rising among ordinary Palestinians writes Nick Clark

 **GAZA** IS a city ready to burst. Palestinians in the Gaza Strip are suffering after Israel drastically cut their power supply last week.

Gazans were already living with an average of just four hours electricity per day after their only power plant ran out of fuel in mid-April.

That same plant has been bombed twice by Israel since 2006. Now, thanks to Israel's crippling blockade, it has stopped producing power altogether.

The Red Cross said the power shortage meant the strip was on the brink of a "systemic collapse".

So Israel cut the power even more, reducing the amount it sends to Gaza by 60 percent last week.

Dr Mona el-Farra, a physician in Gaza, described how the power shortage has pushed everything—from everyday life to vital infrastructure—to the verge of collapse.

She told Socialist Worker, "The situation is very bad, and it has worsened. It's inhuman and it affects every aspect of life."

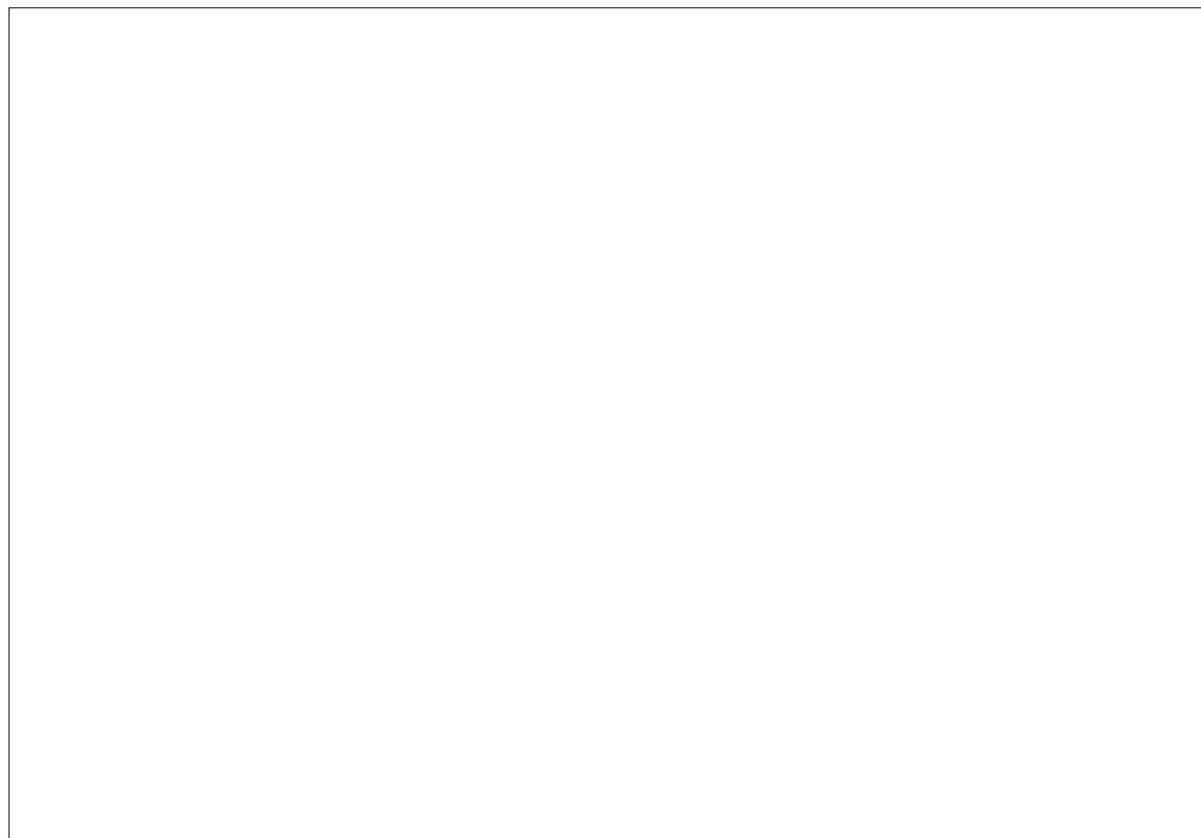
Sewage

"There's not enough power to make the sewage and water-treatment systems function well. The outcome is the water has been affected in vast areas of the Gaza Strip. People don't have enough water in the crowded areas and the refugee camps."

In a hot and overcrowded city, visiting the beach used to be one of the only respite.

But with the sewage system barely functioning, some 100 million litres of raw, untreated waste is pumped into Gaza's coast on a daily basis.

Mona says she has seen outbreaks of infections as a result. But hospitals and clinics, which now rely heavily on



POWER CUTS mean that 100 million litres of raw sewage is pumped into Gaza's coast daily

solar panels and backup generators, are struggling.

"Many machines need power. Heart machines, ventilation machines, incubators. If one is disconnected from the power for just two seconds, it affects the oxygen, it affects the baby's life."

"Medication is another issue. They don't have enough medication in the hospitals. Basic medications such as antibiotics. We don't have enough medication for cancer patients either."

On top of it all, ordinary Palestinians have to live without enough electricity to keep their refrigerators running or even light their homes at night.

Many now use their own backup generators and battery packs. But this is just another expense in a city where at least 65 percent of people live in poverty.

Now tension is mounting, and the blame lies squarely at Israel's feet.

"The siege and the occupation

affects everything. It's a humanitarian disaster built on a political situation," said Mona.

"The psychological wellbeing of people has become very unstable. People are going out into the streets frustrated, quarrelsome, not happy."

But people are also still determined to keep holding out against the siege.

"I don't want you to think we are a defeated people," Mona added. "People are strong in Gaza."

West Bank PA behind power cut

 **ISRAEL** is responsible for the suffering of every Palestinian it has imprisoned and bombed in Gaza. But it's aided by the Palestinian Authority (PA).

Israel cut Gaza's power supply after PA president Mahmoud Abbas asked it to.

Abbas, leader of the Fatah party, is trying to force resistance group Hamas to give up its control of Gaza.

Fatah was forced out of Gaza after failing to overthrow Hamas, which won Palestinian elections in 2006.

Isolated

But Hamas was left isolated in Gaza while Fatah ran the PA in the West Bank. The PA has cooperated with the occupation ever since Fatah leaders made a deal with the US and Israel in 1993.

For the promise of a Palestinian state, they had to accept Israeli domination. They gave up any claim to the land stolen when Israel was set up in 1948. They agreed to clamp down on any resistance.

Recently US president Donald Trump has tried to renew this sham "peace process," hinting at talks if the PA agrees to more concessions.

But time and again Israel has shown it will never accept a Palestinian state. It has used the process to keep a lid on resistance while stealing even more land.

Only last week Israel began work on a new settlement town right in the middle of the West Bank.

Palestinians are pawns in region's power games

 THE POWER crisis has forced resistance group Hamas, which governs in Gaza, into the arms of Egypt.

Hamas and Egypt agreed a deal last week. Egypt, which controls Gaza's southern border crossing, will sell Hamas fuel. Trucks carrying fuel rolled into Gaza last Wednesday.

In return, Hamas has agreed to step up its "security coordination" at its border with Egypt.

Significantly, it has also agreed to give former Fatah party member and

enemy Mohammed Dahlan an important role in Gaza.

Dahlan was in charge of Fatah's attempt to overthrow Hamas in 2006. He was banished from the West Bank after this failed. Now he's taking charge of negotiating with Israel and Egypt on Gaza's behalf.

It's a sign that, after ten years of siege and war, Hamas is now weaker.

Egypt is helping to enforce a blockade on Gulf state Qatar because of its relationship with groups such as Hamas which are backed by Iran. It is trying to draw Hamas away from



Egypt is now sending fuel after a deal made with Hamas

Iran and towards itself.

Egypt is also trying to set Dahlan up as a challenger to Palestinian Authority president Mahmoud Abbas.

This could put them at odds with the US, which backs Abbas and treats Hamas as terrorists.

Whatever happens will be bad for Palestinians.

They came closest to freedom during the Egyptian revolution, which forced Egypt to temporarily lift the siege.

Only a new uprising from below can end the tragedy in Gaza.

IN BRIEF
New strike at Picturehouse

WORKERS ACROSS five Picturehouse cinemas in London were set to strike this Saturday in defiance of management attacks on their Bectu union.

Three reps at the Ritzy cinema in Brixton, south London, have been sacked.

It follows the suspension of eight reps earlier in the month. Workers plan a further walkout on 7 July in their fight for the Living Wage and other demands.

Send messages of support to marc@marccowan.org

No suspension for rolled up trousers

A HOSPITAL worker in Watford General Hospital, north of London, has been suspended for rolling his trousers up during the recent heatwave.

The GMB union member works as a porter for private contractor Medirest.

Bosses had refused workers' request to wear three quarter length trousers.

Michael Dooley from the GMB said, "Mr Wood has been treated unfairly and should be reinstated immediately."

Bosses should reinstate the worker immediately. If they refuse to, the union should force them through action.

Protest to stop estate demolitions

HOUSING campaigners in Haringey, north London, plan to protest next Monday against the council's plans to knock down seven estates in the borough.

5.30 pm at Turnpike Lane Tube station, London N15 3NX

Bin workers won't be refused demands

BIRMINGHAM refuse workers are set to walk out on Friday in the first of six planned walkouts.

The Labour-run council wants to slash around a fifth of jobs.

The Unite union members plan five further two-hour walkouts in July and August.

Tesco rise isn't as super as it sounds

TESCO ANNOUNCED last week it would raise workers' pay to £8.42 an hour by 2018.

The Low Pay Commission estimates the minimum wage will have risen to £7.90 an hour by then.

It is also still below the current Living Wage of £8.45 an hour outside London and £9.75 in London.

Other supermarkets already pay this rate.

The rise comes at a price. From July workers will receive lower pay premiums for Bank Holidays and Sunday.

Tesco also announced some 1,100 job losses at a Cardiff call centre last week.

NHS

Nurses demand higher pay

THE ROYAL College of Nursing (RCN) organisation kicked off its "summer of protest" against the Tories' 1 percent pay cap this week. There were with rallies and meetings across England.

Around 60 RCN members and supporters rallied outside the Department of Health in central London on Tuesday.

Cynthia Davis, who sits on the RCN London board, told Socialist Worker, "Theresa May said there are 'complex

reasons' why nurses are going to food banks. The reason is very simple—the pay is too low."

The rallies follow a 78 percent vote for strikes in a consultation. Cynthia said, "The strength of feeling is very clear."

The RCN and the health unions, including Unison, should ballot their members to strike against the cap.

For a full list of RCN events go to bit.ly/2tieAdu



RALLYING OUTSIDE the Department of Health on Whitehall

PICTURE: SOCIALIST WORKER

CABIN CREW

BA dispute takes off with two-week strike

by DAVE SEWELL

BRITISH Airways (BA) cabin crew were set to begin a two-week walkout this Saturday against the firm's policy of removing their staff travel concessions.

The Unite union members are part of BA's "mixed fleet", set up in 2010 to undermine union organisation and drive down pay.

But they have waged a determined campaign of 26 strike days from January to March against poverty pay.

This forced BA to make concessions, but bosses are still punishing those who struck by taking a perk from them.

Nicky Marcus, Unite official and former BA rep, told Socialist Worker, "Members are hungry for this action.

"They won't stomach the idea that BA can punish them for exercising their right to take industrial action.

"BA's vindictiveness has



Striking in February

given us back the momentum for the strike.

"We paused for peace,

but BA just couldn't help themselves. Now anything less than two weeks would have seemed weak."

The union has threatened legal action and has also complained to the Civil Aviation Authority watchdog.

It has raised possible safety implications about BA's plans to break the strike with Airbus planes.

But it is the return to

collective action that can really shake BA.

The planned strike could have a big impact as the peak holiday season looms.

Workers encourage supporters to join them on Saturday at the Bedfont centre near London Heathrow airport (see below).

Nicky said, "The support we've had has been fantastic and long may it continue."

Bedfont & District Community Association, Feltham, TW14 9QZ from 10am on Saturday

GLASS WORKERS

Workers want genuine pay deal, not hot air from union

WORKERS AT Sierra Windows in Paignton, Devon, were set to strike for three days from Wednesday.

Talks with management took place on Monday—only the second meeting bosses had granted workers after nine weeks of strikes.

The Unite union members are resisting the imposition of new 12-hour shifts and a below-inflation pay deal.

They were briefly joined by workers at DB Glass in nearby Newton Abbey.

They are both part of the Specialist Building Products Group.

But Unite stopped the

action at DG Glass after reported ballot irregularities.

The Sierra Windows workers have had their strike days changed due to an error by the union.

But workers have said these days are less effective because fewer of them are at work.

Unless Unite gets an extension rapidly, its 12-week mandate for industrial action has just three weeks left to run.

These workers have shown determination to fight the bosses. Their union needs to match it—and that means raising its game.

UNIVERSITIES

Lecturers walk out against attacks in higher education

by ANDY STAFFORD

hear the arguments about what is happening to Universities.

Plenty of younger colleagues, and other researchers visiting the university, joined the lively picket lines.

More action for the autumn is being discussed.

Pickets were out in force for the last day of their two-day strike at Manchester Metropolitan University last Wednesday.

The UCU union members are fighting against up to 160 redundancies and the closure of the Crewe campus.

"The new vice-chancellor wants to show he can push through redundancies", said one picket.

"We don't have a say, that's why we're striking."

Mike Killian

ROYAL MAIL

Postal union gets ready to deliver ballot over attacks

CWU UNION reps are discussing the next steps in their fight against a wave of attacks planned by Royal Mail bosses.

They heard from top union officials about their talks with bosses in London on Monday and Birmingham on Tuesday.

Royal Mail wants to rob thousands of pounds from workers' pensions, slash pay supplements, erode conditions and get rid of crucial union rep positions.

Union leaders told the reps they had to prepare for a big fight. The plan is to ballot at the end of summer to take action in the autumn when

strikes can have more effect. Reps now need to deliver a big vote to strike.

A series of unofficial walkouts at Royal Mail offices also show there is a mood to fight.

Postal workers at a delivery office in Thurrock staged a three-hour sit down on last Thursday.

Bosses want to break the union and drive down hard-won pay and conditions.

National strikes can stop them.

More meetings are planned in Bristol, Glasgow, Liverpool and Sheffield next week. For details go to bit.ly/2tMolh4

NUT UNION

Left should do better

THE SOCIALIST Teachers Alliance (STA) will stand Kauser Jan in an upcoming election for the NUT union's vice president.

Kauser Jan is a strong candidate that the left should unite behind.

But many are rightly angry as the STA had voted to stand Sara Tomlinson.

Sara stood down after it became clear that leading STA members planned to ignore that democratic vote.

Sara said she would fight for "an inclusive left in which democracy, transparency and accountability are core principles, not empty slogans".

COLLEGES

UCU MEMBERS at the College of North West London were set to strike on Wednesday and Saturday to defend suspended union rep Indo Sen.

They have already struck twice to demand Sen's

reinstatement, after backing strikes by 83 percent in a ballot.

Meanwhile a protest over pay cuts at Darlington College was called off last week after bosses agreed to new talks.

SOCIAL WORKERS

Workers in Kirklees plan two-day strike

by NICK RUFF,
Kirklees Unison chair (pc)

SOCIAL WORKERS at Kirklees Council in West Yorkshire were set to strike on Wednesday and Thursday of next week.

Unison union members working in Children's Services are involved in a longrunning dispute over pay, workloads, agency staff, bullying, IT systems, accommodation and travel plans.

The dispute is reaching a critical stage.

The council has announced that Kirklees Children's Services will remain in house, but that Leeds Council will provide a management lead.

This follows an investigation carried out by Eleanor Brazil, which began after an inadequate Ofsted report at the end of last year.

Tory education secretary Justine Greening appointed Brazil as the Children's Services Commissioner in the wake of the Ofsted report.

Unison members have welcomed the news that the service will remain in-house. This is better than the outsourcing of the Children's Trust that Brazil had recommended.

But workers are not



MANY WORKERS have faced the threat of outsourcing, such as these strikers in Barnet

prepared to drop their demands to resolve their longrunning grievances.

Kirklees Unison will be calling meetings of members to organise the two days of strikes.

It also intends to have a rally on the first strike day

to discuss further action if required.

The union is appealing for messages of support and donations to the strike fund to build solidarity.

We have received many responses over the last six months from other Unison

branches organising in local government. They show that the grievances of our members are shared by social work staff across Britain.

- Send messages of support to Kirklees Unison, 4 New North Parade, Huddersfield, HD1 5JP Fax 01484450174

TEACHING ASSISTANTS

Durham TAs—‘We will not be divided by dodgy deal’

TEACHING assistants (TAs) across County Durham are gearing up to reject a deal cooked up by the Labour-run council and union officials.

The majority are members of the Unison union.

Their general secretary Dave Prentis said last week that the dispute had “ended”. Prentis said TAs were “now talking about protection with nobody losing”.

Durham TAs explained to Socialist Worker why they are organising to reject the deal.

Trish said, “So many are losing large amounts of money despite having to extend their hours and duties. I am so disappointed and very angry.”

Gillian said, “I feel very let down. A smiling Unison official told us that from day one no one would lose any money and that after two years’ pay protection only a tiny percentage would lose.

“We now find 22 percent—472 TAs—are in this group with several, not just the one they claimed, losing over £4,000.

“I’m supposed to be a winner. I get a two-year pay freeze, hundreds of extra hours a year and a massive increase in responsibility.”

Workers have been fighting attacks on their pay since late 2015.

Lisa said, “I didn’t give my life up for 21 months for this offer. We are highly trained and highly skilled, and we feel that we are being let down time and time again.

“I said no in 2015. I said no to suspend the strikes last year. I will continue to say



Durham TA Anne

no until we get a resolution which is right and fair for all.”

Caroline said bosses may think “we’re the kind of people who can go back to work knowing that some are gaining while others lose”.

She said, “They clearly haven’t learned anything about Durham TAs.”

Anne agreed, “This offer is divisive. Placards are being dusted down as we fear industrial action is on the horizon.”

Claire added, “I am ready to get back out onto the picket lines.

“We started this together and we will finish this together. If one TA loses we all lose.”

Four walkouts against pay cuts of up to 23 percent late last year grew in strength and saw TAs grow in confidence.

But union officials called off the action without any real consultation.

The strength of the TAs’ solid walkouts forced council chiefs to retreat. More strikes can win a better deal than this.

- Send messages of solidarity to spartacusannie@gmail.com

TEACHERS

>>>from page 20

12 and 13 July. And NUT members at Our Lady’s Convent school, also in Hackney, were set to strike on Tuesday and Wednesday of next week.

So were NUT members at Oaks Park School in Redbridge, east London.

Parents have called a protest against the cuts in London on 16 July. It assembles at 12 noon at Embankment.

And head teachers from 66 Birmingham schools wrote to Theresa May on Monday to say the “fair funding” formula will devastate their schools.

Activists in other areas should do the same.

And we need a national protest—and national strikes—to have the best chance of stopping them.

- Send messages of support to Oaks Park School at billstockwell@hotmail.co.uk, to Drayton Green via ealingnut.org.uk, to Forest Hill at membersec@lewisham.nut.org.uk and to Stoke Newington at secretary1@hackney.nut.org.uk

UNISON UNION CONFERENCE

It's time for less talk and more action from Prentis

by RAYMIE KIERNAN in Brighton

DAVE PRENTIS’ leadership has been rocked by scandal since his 2015 re-election as Unison union general secretary.

Allegations of widespread malpractice by senior officials in that election have undermined him.

Anger at the lack of leadership from the top of the union was less easy to contain than usual at this year’s national conference in Brighton.

Wendy from Tower Hamlets, east London, summed up the frustration. “I’m a low paid worker, I work in a kitchen,” she said. “I earn £6,400 in a year. At the end of each month

I have to choose between feeding my child and paying rent.

“We are sick of pay restraints. That’s why I voted for Jeremy Corbyn and why we have to fight to break the pay freeze.”

A national executive council motion pledged to explore “the possibility of coordinated action” across Unison and the public sector.

Prentis backed the People’s Assembly national demonstration on 1 July. He said, “We will call on every single Unison branch to march against the Tories.”

He also said, “This is our year to smash the pay cap.”

Prentis needs to start delivering on his promises.

- For more on Unison see socialistworker.co.uk

DEFENDING THE WELFARE STATE

Fury at cuts and care crisis

ANGER AT the state of social housing and the preventable deaths after the Grenfell Tower blaze repeatedly broke out.

Mandy from London argued, “We should demand that the rich who leave their homes empty for profit are requisitioned now.”

“Let’s put the queen in a little apartment and use the refurbishment money for her palace for council housing.”

Jim from Doncaster said there was “no greater monument to the contempt from our rulers for working class communities than Grenfell”.

Delegates heard how “integration” is used as a cover for cuts and privatisation in health and social care.

Andrea from Bolton exposed how one flagship council arm’s length care firm was running 1,000 staff hours a week short.

Tracy, a low paid carer and

delegate from Sefton, said that workers like her are the “shock absorbers of the system”.

She added, “So-called health tourism or immigration is not to blame, ‘bed blocking’ is not the problem. Proper funding and resources are.”

Gareth, from Bournemouth and Christchurch, opposed “integrating one chronically underfunded service with another chronically underfunded service”.

One motion said the national 200,000-strong protest for the NHS in March “shows the potential for a serious fight”.

It said, “We believe unions should be doing more to build that fight.”

Delegates voted to affiliate Unison to Health Campaigns Together and to call on the TUC to organise a national demonstration in defence of our NHS.

ANTI-RACISM WAS a big theme of the Unison conference.

NEC member Elizabeth Cameron attacked the racism coming from the top of society. “We are making clear that refugees are welcome here, and we won’t allow migrant workers be scapegoated,” she said.

The conference reaffirmed support for working with “a wide coalition of anti-racist groups” to organise against “racism, antisemitism and xenophobia”.

Around 130 delegates joined a Stand Up To Racism (SUTR) fringe meeting. And up to 200 were at the Love Music Hate Racism (LMHR) conference social with founder of Steel Pulse, Basil Gabbidon.

Basil urged activists and artists to campaign with LMHR. “The power of music has an influence but pop music isn’t enough—it’s got to be conscious,” he said. “It’s up to us to make a change.”

SCHOOL ACTION CAN STOP CUTS

by SADIE ROBINSON

TEACHERS AT a number of London schools struck this week against cuts and the threats to education.

The growing number of walkouts shows workers' fury at the attacks—and their willingness to resist.

NUT union members at Forest Hill boys school in Lewisham and Drayton Green School in Ealing began three-day strikes on Tuesday. Both had been out on strike the week before.

For those at Forest Hill, Tuesday was their tenth time on the picket line.

Workers there face cuts of £1.3 million. Some 23 teachers have already resigned and won't return in September.

Those who remain face rocketing workloads—while children face a reduced curriculum and a shorter school day.

One parent responded, "Surely this is going to be massively detrimental for our boys? It's just too much."

NUT rep Joe told Socialist Worker that management "solutions" to dealing with



STRIKING WORKERS at Forest Hill School and their supporters on the picket line last week

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

the workload crisis are "not going to suffice".

"People know what's required," he said. "They are already working 50-hour weeks. We need time to plan

our lessons properly, but management is making no concessions."

Teachers were also furious after management brought in supply teachers during the

strike last week. NUT London regional secretary Martin Powell-Davies said the school "has admitted that they should not have acted unlawfully in using agency staff to

cover striking teachers".

Like many, Joe is also angry at Labour-run Lewisham council for drawing up the cuts package and refusing to listen to teachers' concerns.

HEALTH SERVICE

St Barts hospital cleaners launch bold programme of strikes for more pay

by TOMÁŠ TENGELY-EVANS

AROUND 1,000 outsourced hospital cleaners in east London are planning a programme of hard-hitting action against multinational Serco.

The Unite union members at Barts Health NHS Trust will begin a three day walkout for higher pay next Tuesday, 4 July.

The largely migrant workforce then plans a week-long walkout from Tuesday 11 July—and a two-week walkout from Tuesday 25 July.

Willie Howard, the

Unite union organiser, told Socialist Worker, "We're planning serious action—it's not one day, it's not tokenistic."

A rally is planned at 10am outside the Royal London on the first day of the strike.

Bosses were already running scared before the cleaners were out the door.

As Willie said, "Serco were pulling people into question and answer meetings, but at one of them management was booed off stage.

"Management are very nervous."

More than 100 of the cleaners at the Royal



Cleaners during a wildcat strike in April this year

London Hospital, one of four sites, struck unofficially after a mass meeting in the canteen in April.

Serco slashed the cleaners' morning tea breaks and told them that they would only get a below inflation 1 percent pay rise every year for the next ten years.

After just one day bosses caved in and reinstated the breaks. Now the cleaners are determined to win a pay rise.

They are demanding a wage rise of 30p an hour above the minimum wage.

After the unofficial action, Unite organised

an official ballot—and cleaners voted by 99 percent to strike on a 52 percent turnout. This is a powerful rebuke to those union leaders who argue that the Tories' Trade Union Act means strikes are off the agenda.

Ballot

Willie explained how they had won the ballot among the cleaners.

He said, "There are 14 floors in the hospital. We have a union rep—who has shown they can recruit—on each floor.

"We've done the organising, and cleaners look to us because we've

shown the union is fighting."

When unions give a lead, they can tap into a mood of discontent among workers and give them confidence to fight.

Cleaners are showing that through struggle and working class solidarity migrants push up wages.

Their fight is for higher pay—but it is also a fight that highlights the Tories' privatisation in the NHS.

Every trade unionist and health campaigner should build solidarity for their fight.

For details of the rally and to send messages of support, go to bit.ly/2tMx1Uy